

Marking principles

Section A: Sources

The mark schemes for the source questions will differ from year to year. There will be a series of shorter and longer answers with marks ranging from 2 to 12, with 4 marks representing approximately a paragraph's worth of material. A more detailed provisional mark scheme for the 2019 Entrance Paper has been provided to show this in practice.

Section B: Essays

Essays will be marked out of 20. No set answers are expected and scripts will be marked positively for what is there, rather than negatively for what is not.

Lower band: 1-6

At this level there may be some ideas, arguments or evidence deployed, but there is likely to be little organization, and answers will typically be characterized by irrelevance and a lack of focus.

Middle Band: 7-13

At this level there will be an attempt to answer the question, with a fair sense of organization. Some evidence will be deployed in support of the arguments made, but may be limited in scope. Historical explanations will be generally clear, but in places the sense of direction will be lost, or the answer will drift into irrelevance. A good narrative response, which only implicitly answers the question, may fit into the lower part of this band.

Upper Band: 14-20

Answers will be characterized by an analytical and argued approach. The demands of the question will be well-understood and there will be a range of supporting material. Explanations will be clear and developed, although some unevenness in focus or approach may be expected. The writing will be clear and unambiguous.

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