

Writing Paper 3

What can you expect on Paper 3?

1. Two essays for each topic (total 36 questions)
2. Essays generally demand specific, named content
3. You have to answer two questions
4. These questions have to be from different topics
5. You have 50 minutes for each question

Remember that this is your “**in-depth**” paper, so examiners are expecting:

- Depth of understanding
- Detailed evidence and examples
- Critical analysis

Command Terms

Compare and contrast

EX: Compare and contrast the social policies of Germany and Italy in the inter-war period

Give an account of the similarities and differences between the two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout. Again, look for “themes” that you can focus your answer around

Discuss

EX: Discuss the impact of the Great Depression on one country in the Americas

You need to give a balanced analysis (e.g., successes vs failures, positives vs negatives, advantages vs disadvantages)

Evaluate

EX: Evaluate the success of Khrushchev’s domestic policies

Identify and develop the strengths and limitations or successes and failures of an assertion made in the question or the focus of the question

Examine

EX: Examine the reasons for the defeat of the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War

Look at the given issue through different ‘lenses’; show the inter- relationship of factors

To what extent

EX: “The Weimar Republic was doomed to fail”. To what extent do you agree with this statement ?

Give two sides...set up arguments both supporting and challenging the factor or concept in the question

Introduction

The introduction is a key part of your essay. In your introduction, you will:

- Show that you understand the question; this could involve referring to the dates or events mentioned in the title and putting them into context; also explaining any concepts
- Indicate the scope of your essay
- Set out your line of argument
- Provide a transition to the first paragraph of your essay

The reader (teacher or examiner) should feel after reading your introduction that you have a good grasp of the key issues connected to the question and a clear line of argument.

Sequence of Paragraphs

Your sequence of paragraphs should lead the reader through a clear line of argument and also show that you are being analytical rather than just describing or telling a story.

- Make sure you avoid a chronological approach as this will lead you into a narrative approach rather than an analytical approach.
- Use connective words to help you keep an analytical focus.

Main body of your essay: paragraphs

Your essay will probably contain around 6 paragraphs. Each paragraph should include:

- A clear opening sentence which links to the question and states the key point or argument of the paragraph
- Evidence which supports the point given in the first sentence. For Paper 3 essays, you need detailed evidence, e.g. precise dates, statistics, treaties, etc
- A final sentence which sums up the argument of the paragraph and leads on to the next paragraph

Conclusion

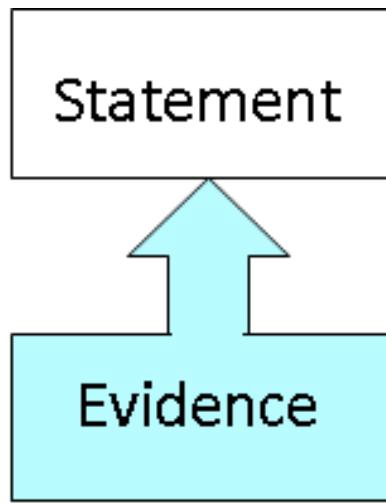
Make sure this leaves a good impression!

- It is important to:
- Restate your main point or argument
- Link back to the title to show that your argument answers the question set

Using Evidence

“...this is a history examination and not an invitation to unleash a torrent of generalities” (Subject report May 2010)

Support all points with appropriate evidence; only include the information that supports your claim and make it clear why that information supports your claim



Use of historiography

Part of your evidence may include the view of historians or even direct quotes from historians. However do not substitute these for your own knowledge and judgment; your aim is to use historical debate as evidence for your own argument.

“Historiography should not be a substitute for solid factual knowledge, accurate chronology and sequencing which must form the basis of any effective essay” (Examiners Report, May 2010)