

History GCSE exam paper revision: Technique.

- 4 mark questions
- 8 mark questions
- 12 mark questions
- 16 mark questions

The 4 mark questions:

‘Describe two features of...’

- This question appears on Paper 1 about the Western front and paper 2 in the section on Elizabeth. You do the SAME to answer them.

Sample answer:

Describe two features of the weapons used on the Western Front.

Feature 1: *Machine guns were used by soldiers on the Western Front. Machine guns could fire 500 rounds a minute and were effective when fighting.*

Feature 2: *Artillery was also used by armies on the Western Front. They used cannons which sent huge shells about 900 kilograms.*

Feature given – something about weapons.

Specific information about it added.

Second feature

Specific knowledge

Your turn:



5

minutes

Choose any of the following and write your answer:

- Give a feature (thing) which the question asks about.
 - Add something you know about it.

1. Describe two features of the evacuation route on the Western Front.
2. Describe two features of the trench system.
3. Describe two features of the Ridolfi Plot.
4. Describe two features of the problems faced by Elizabeth when she became queen.

The 4 mark questions continue:

‘How could you follow up...’

- This question only appears on Paper 1 about the Western front.

Sample answer:

How could you follow up Source B to find out more about the impact of the terrain on the transport of the wounded on the Western Front?

Detail in source B I would follow up:

I would follow up the point about the damage that stretcher bearers could do , ‘had to be careful because you could do more damage to a man than the shell if you jolted him’.

Question I would ask:

What wounds were made worse by jolts on the stretchers

What type of source I could use:

Hospital records.

How this might help answer my question:

They would say what wounds they had and whether they were caused by fighting or the conditions in the trenches

Links to the question.

Explains the source choice.

The 4 mark questions continue:

‘How could you follow up...’

- This question only appears on Paper 1 about the Western front.

Complete activities 1 and 2 on the ‘visible learning: review and revise’ sheet.

Aim to complete this 3 times to build up a ‘bank’ of examples.

Remember:

It is only 4 marks – 1 mark per point made.

Time = 5 minutes.

The 4 mark questions continue:

‘Give two things you can infer from...’

- This question only appears on Paper 3 about Weimar and Nazi Germany.

Sample answer:

Give two things you can infer from source A about Hitler’s meetings.

What I can infer:

The source suggests that Hitler appealed to lots of different groups of people in society.

Details in the source that tell me this:

I know this because the source says, ‘He is the rescuer of the scholar, farmer, the worker and the unemployed.’

What I can infer:

The source also suggests the crowd were very enthusiastic about Hitler.

Details in the source that tell me this:

I know this because the source says, ‘the joy of the moment showed itself in the roaring salute... The crowd looked up to Hitler.’

Give two things you can infer from Source A about the police state.



5

minutes

Source A.

German citizens being searched in the street by gestapo officers and armed uniformed police, 1933.



What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

The source suggests that the police had a strong presence in Nazi Germany. I know this because the source shows several police searching people with rifles.

8 Mark Question: Usefulness.

“How useful is Source A for an enquiry into”

This question is on Paper 1 and also Paper 3.

The answer needs to focus on the **content** and the **Provenance**.

- **Content** – What does the source tell you about the topic in the question?
 - Use your own knowledge to support it.

‘The source is useful because it says.... From my own knowledge I know ...’

 - Is there anything missing which would help?
 - ‘However it is not completely useful because ...’
- **Provenance** – Look at your PANDA points and say why the source would be reliable (trustworthy). (You do not need to refer to all parts of the PANDA)
 - Why wouldn’t the evidence be that trustworthy?
 - Give a judgement to answer the question.

Source A: From a report by Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior, 6th October 1933.

‘Despite repeated announcements by the Reich Chancellor, and despite numerous circulars, new infringements by subordinate leaders and by members of the SA have been reported again and again during the past weeks. Above all, SA leaders and SA men have carried out police actions for which they had no authority whatsoever... and which cannot be reconciled with existing laws and regulations. These infringements must now stop.

Frick was an important Nazi with a top ranking position. He would know what was happening in Germany and what Hitler thought of it.

BUT: He would do what Hitler wanted because he wants to do well.

It is an official report which would have been put together carefully and it is telling us what the Nazis views were. **BUT:** Only gives the Nazi view and they wanted to make the SA look bad (discredit them).

Useful because it is an example of anti-SA propaganda showing that the SA are not doing what Hitler tells them (first sentence). This shows that Hitler was not in complete control because the one group who helped him gain power are not conforming. **BUT:** The SA continued to be useful for Hitler acting as police men with powers to stop and search in the first few months.

Your turn:



15
minutes

Now have a go at answering the following usefulness question:

‘How useful are sources A and B for an enquiry into German recovery in the years 1924 – 1929? Explain your answer using Source A and B and your own knowledge of the historical context.’

HINT:

This source is useful because it tells me

I know

However it does not include

The source can be trusted because

However, it is not completely trustworthy because

Over, The source is.....

You can annotate (label) the sources on the sheet with different coloured pens to show the main points.

'How useful are sources A and B for an enquiry into German recovery in the years 1924– 1929? Explain your answer using Source A and B and your own knowledge of the historical context.'

Source A: From a German journalist, written in 1930.

'In comparison with what we expected after Versailles, Germany has raised herself up to shoulder the terrific burden of this peace in a way we would never have thought possible. So that today, after 10 years we may say with certainty 'Even so it might have been worse'. The stage of convalescence from Versailles is a very long road to go and we have travelled it surprisingly quickly.'

Source B: From a speech by Stresemann, 1929.

'The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term loans are called in by America, a large section of our economy would collapse.'

8 Mark Question: Consequences.

“Explain two consequences of.....”

This question is only on Paper 2, Section A on the American West.

Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851).

One consequence of the Fort Laramie Treaty was that it led to increased settlement of the west.

← Consequence.

This was because in return for a fixed sum of money the Plains Indians had guaranteed that travellers could use the Oregon Trail safely.

← Explanation.

A second consequence was that the Plains Indians way of life was disrupted.

← Consequence.

This was because the Treaty allowed for new roads and forts to be built which disturbed Indian hunting lands as the wild animals they depended on for food and living were driven away

← Explanation.

Your turn:



10
minutes
(2x5)

Now have a go at answering one of the following questions :

1. Explain two consequences of the Gold Rush of 1849.
2. Explain two consequence of the opening of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.
3. Explain two consequence of the opening of the Oregon Trail, 1836.
4. Explain two consequences of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876.

This is worth 8 marks - 4 for each consequence you give. 2 marks for saying what the consequence was and then 2 for the explanation.

HINT:

One consequence was
This was because....
Another consequence was
This was because

8 Mark Question: Narrative.

“Write a narrative account analysing”

This question is only on Paper 2, Section A American West. You will have two bullet points of information to help you

- Underline the key points in the question – this will help to keep your answer focused.
- Try to cover 3 ‘events/ developments’ – this can be the 2 given and 1 more or three of your own.
 - Add detail about each of the events that you use to describe them.
 - Write the answer in chronological order.
- Use linking words between one event you write about and the next – ‘Furthermore’; ‘this led to’; ‘in addition’; ‘however’; ‘as a result of’.

Now read the example answer that you have: Identify the 3 points.
Highlight the explanation/ linking words. How could it be improved?

Write a narrative account analysing the key events 1849 to 1869 that led to the development of the American West. (8 marks.)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Gold discovered in California.
- The transcontinental Railroad.

In 1849 gold was discovered in California in the west of America. As a result of this discovery, 100,000 people travelled to the west in the hope of striking it rich by panning for gold. This also resulted in the partial fulfilment of Manifest Destiny, which was the idea that the Americans had the God given right to populate America. The discovery of gold also resulted in the disruption of the buffalo which affected the Indians greatly as they relied on the buffalo for food and other items. This led to the Indians fighting back against the early settlers which led to the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1851 in order to protect the white settlers from Indian attacks.

The discovery of gold in 1849 links to the Civil War as the economy was improving because of the discovery of gold. As a result the states had to decide on how to develop America which led to conflict between the northern states and the southern states. The Civil War started mainly because the Northern states decided that they should make the Great Plains a more communal place with towns and homesteaders. On the other hand, the southern states wanted to cover the Great Plains with plantations and use slave labour.

During the Civil War years the Northern states set up the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad by private companies to link both sides of the country and further help economic development. They also enacted the Homesteaders Act which enabled homesteaders to buy 160 acres of land at a reduced rate so long as they farmed the land for 5 years. This helped the idea of Manifest Destiny by encouraging more people to settle on the Plains. More people were also encouraged to move west because of the Transcontinental railroad as it made travel easier. It also provided homesteaders with supplies that were needed to farm the Great Plains such as wood for fencing, as well as encouraging the trade of goods across America which further developed the economy of America. Furthermore, cattle men also gained as cow towns such as Abilene were set up to help trade beef.

Your turn:

Finish the following answer:

Write a narrative account analysing why Americas went west in the years 1836 – 1849.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Oregon trail from 1836
- The California Gold Rush 1849.

The student started with a list of 'things' that happened during that time (the main developments):

- Oregon Trail
- Economic depression in the East – 1837
 - Mormon migration - 1846-7
 - California Gold Rush - 1849

Read the beginning of their answer and then finish it using their notes to help.

The first development that encouraged Americans to go West between 1836 and 1849 was the opening of the Oregon Trail. The opening of the Oregon trail made it possible for settlers to cross the Plains and the Rocky Mountains by wagon to settle on the fertile farmland in Oregon, and later in California as well. As more and more early pioneers used the Trail it became more established as a route across Indian territory and through the dangerous mountain ranges and therefore was seen as being the safest way to travel west at the time.

Furthermore, the economic depression in the East in 1837 pushed more Americans to brave the dangers of the Oregon Trail and head for a new future in Oregon. In the economic depression banks collapsed and savings were lost. Businesses struggled, wages were cut and jobs were lost. High unemployment drove some to seek a new life out in the West.

Write a narrative account analysing why Americans went west in the years 1836 – 1849.

You may use the following in your answer:

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The first development that encouraged Americans to go West between 1836 and 1849 was the opening of the Oregon Trail. The opening of the Oregon trail made it possible for settlers to cross the Plains and the Rocky Mountains by wagon to settle on the fertile farmland in Oregon, and later in California as well. As more and more early pioneers used the Trail it became more established as a route across Indian territory and through the dangerous mountain ranges and therefore was seen as being the safest way to travel west at the time.

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8 Mark Question: Importance.

“Explain two of the following:
The importance of To”

This question is only on Paper 2, American West. You will have a choice of 3 and you choose any 2 of them.

Look at the example answer that you have been given for the question:
‘Explain the importance of breeding and training horses to the way of life and means of survival of the Plains Indians.’

The importance of breeding and training horses to the way of life and means of survival of the Plains Indians.

- Allowed them to move onto the Plains.
 - Hunt buffalo.
- Measure of wealth and status.

Breeding and training horses was important as the horses allowed the Plains Indians to move out onto the Great Plains to live and hunt the traditional nomadic lifestyle. This was because they were able to give up farming in the river valleys and become nomadic hunter-gatherers when the buffalo herds moved, having horses meant that they could pack up the Tipis and move them on the travois to follow the herd.

The horse also allowed the Plains Indians to hunt the buffalo far more effectively. They could ride alongside the herds and kill them with their bows and arrows. This was important as it meant they could kill as many animals as they needed for food, clothing and shelter.

Planning notes before starting to answer the question: What evidence is there?

Clear link to the question to help keep the question focus.

Point made with own knowledge, developed with explanation which also uses own knowledge.

This only has two reasons given to answer the question and the last point is not fully developed – You do need to have 3 developed reasons to show your knowledge and understanding.

Your turn:

Explain the importance of religion to the way of life of the Plains Indians.
Explain the importance of the Indian Appropriations Act 1851 to the way of life of the Plains Indians.
Explain the importance of the Transcontinental Railroad to the settlement of America.

Start with a list of reasons to show the importance of the question focus.

Paragraph of one reason and its significance.

Explain your point fully.

Repeat for two other reasons.

12 Mark Question: Explanation.

“Explain why”

This question is on Paper 1, 2 and 3.

Explain why there was continuity in ideas about the cause of disease during the period 1250 – 1500. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Church
- Galen

Explain why there have been changes in understanding the causes of illness during the twentieth century. You may use the following in your answer:

- DNA
- Lifestyle

12 Mark Question: Explanation.

“Explain why”

This question is on Paper 1, 2 and 3.

Explain why there was a change in the lives of young people in Nazi Germany in the years 1933 – 1939. You may include the following in your answer:

- Nazi ideals
- Education

Explain why there was a greater reduction in unemployment in Germany in the years 1933 – 1939. You may include the following in your answer:

- Rearmament
- The Reich Labour Service.

16 mark question: Reach a Judgement

“Statement”. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
Question is on Paper 1 (Medicine through time section B), Paper 2 (Elizabeth Section B) and paper 3.

To answer the question you need to make points to support (agree) with the statement and then points to disagree with the statement.
Planning makes it more straight forward –

Evidence to Agree	Evidence to Disagree

SPaG:

The 16 mark question has 4 extra marks for your SPaG. Remember to take care to gain the extra marks and use specialist historical terms where possible.

- Use the two points given to you in the question.
 - Add a third one (target level 5 +)
 - 6 marks is for your knowledge
- 10 marks is for your analysis and evaluation.

Read the sample answer to the following question:
'Religious divisions were Elizabeth's main challenge when she became queen in 1558'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Catholic grievances
- Philip II

You must also use information of your own

- ✓ Highlight the two points in the answer.
- ✓ Underline the explanation which links to the question.
- ✓ Add a third point which can go on either side of the answer.
- ✓ Add a conclusion (focus on the question)

In the 16 mark answer, don't just write about the issue on the question. In this question it is asking if religious divisions were MOST important, you need to include the other challenges Elizabeth faced as well and then explain which was most significance.

- Paragraph to support
- Paragraph to challenge
 - Judgement

How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924 – 29? Explain your answer using both Interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context.

Read the example answer. Develop the paragraphs with the extra evidence needed and finish the conclusion.

Interpretation 1. From '*Weimar and Nazi Germany*', F. Reynoldson (1996).

'From 1924 to 1929 the Weimar republic was much stronger than it had been just after the war. Led by Stresemann in the Reichstag, the different parties managed to work together. The extreme parties such as the Nazis gained fewer seats in the elections. The German people were better off and more contented. The Weimar republic looked safe.'

Interpretation 2. From '*Weimar and Nazi Germany*', E.Wimlott (1997).

'German prosperity was built on quicksand foundations. The Weimar economy was dependent upon high-interest American loans, which usually had to be repaid or renewed within three months. In times of depression, US moneylenders could demand repaid repayment. Moreover, unemployment never fell below 1.3 million. Although big business grew in the 1920s, small firms struggled and many went bankrupt.'

16 Mark (+ 4SPaG) Question: How far do you agree?

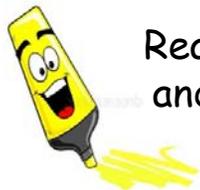
‘Treatment of diseases and care of the sick completely changed after c1800’.

How far do you agree with this statement?

You may use the following information in your answer:

- Magic bullets
- The NHS

You **must** also use information of your own



Read the question
and highlight the
key words

Appears on Paper
1, Paper 2
(Elizabeth) &
Paper 3

Exam tips

- Take care over capital letters, and check your spelling
- Make your judgement at the start of your answer and refer back to it throughout
- Balance your answer – show both sides to the argument, BUT always come back to your judgement
- Show off as much specific and detailed knowledge as you can
- Finish your answer with a clear conclusion

‘The threat of invasion was Elizabeth’s main problem when she became queen in 1558.’
How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following information in your answer:

- France
- Elizabeth’s legitimacy

You **must** also use information of your own.

Extra advice

Make a little plan before you start this answer. An organised response will gain more marks