Revision practice

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · History · HL

1 Historical sources and contextual evaluation

- provenance
- corroboration

■ Question 1

What can an official announcement establish most directly?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

The public explanation offered by its issuing authority.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A private letter and a public announcement describe the same event differently. Neither is automatically truthful or useless because of its genre.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

A contemporary announcement can show the official explanation offered to an audience. A private letter can show one person's response. Neither alone establishes the event's impact on everyone; compare with independent evidence and context.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not write primary sources are reliable as a universal rule. / Use the actual prescribed case studies, dates and actors selected by the school; this skills lesson is not case-study coverage.

2 Causation, change and comparative essays

- causation
- continuity

■ Question 1

What makes a causal paragraph analytical?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

It explains how a factor produced an outcome and evaluates its importance.

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■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A long-standing tension and an immediate incident can both contribute to change. Listing events in date order does not explain their causal importance.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Organize a paragraph around one factor, then compare its operation in two relevant cases. Explain why the factor mattered differently. End with a qualified judgement that answers the question, rather than declaring every factor equally important.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not confuse a consequence with a cause or assume the earliest event was the most important. / A classroom hypothetical is not evidence for the selected historical topic; replace it with verified case detail.

3 Inquiry, evidence and methodological reflection

- historical inquiry
- significance

■ Question 1

Which reflection concerns historical method?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Explain how uneven survival of records limits the groups whose experiences can be reconstructed.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: How did a local institution change over a bounded decade is more researchable than why did society change. The question determines which evidence is relevant.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Begin with a small source inventory: what exists, who produced it and which groups are absent. Revise the question if evidence cannot support it. Track citations while drafting and reflect on a real difficulty, such as unequal survival of records.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)

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- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not replace historical reflection with a diary of your effort. / The full guide governs IA section limits and criteria; school supervision verifies sources and independent authorship.

4 Regional arguments and historiography

- historiography
- chronology

■ Question 1

What should follow a historian's interpretation in an essay?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Analysis of its evidence, explanation and limitations for the question.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Two historians may give different weight to institutions and individual action. Their disagreement can sharpen your question rather than force an arbitrary choice.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Compare each historian's evidence, scope and causal explanation. Identify what each explains well and a difficulty raised by the other. Use the comparison to refine your own judgement about the question.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not use a historian's name as a substitute for an argument. / The 2028 course changes regional selection and assessment; these 2017 Paper 3 requirements cannot be carried across unchanged.

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