

## 3.1 The historical investigation

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: 25 marks**

**KEY WORDS** historical investigation • reflection

### The historical investigation

---

#### Objective

---

Form a narrow, answerable, debatable question, plan the research, evaluate two sources in depth with OPVL, and structure the investigation and reflection (the internal assessment).

#### 1 Key knowledge and worked examples

---

**Investigation toolkit.** At most 2,200 words (bibliography not counted), 25 marks in three sections. Section 1, criterion A [6]: the question, and two sources identified, their relevance explained and analysed with OPVL relative to the question. Section 2, criterion B [15]: an organised, critical investigation from a range of evidence, weighing historians' views, ending in a reasoned conclusion. Section 3, criterion C [4]: reflection on historians' methods and their difficulties, tied to the investigation. Question: narrow, answerable, debatable. Worked example: the Hoare–Laval Plan, December 1935.

#### 2 Practice

---

**2.1** State the three tests a good investigation question must pass. [3]

---

---

---

**2.2** Improve this question: “Why did the League of Nations fail?” [2]

---

---

**2.3** Name the three things a research plan must state. [2]

---

---

**2.4** Give one value and one limitation of a published cabinet minute, for a question about ministers' motives. [2]

---

---

**2.5** Distinguish reflection from conclusion. [2]

---

---

### 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** (*Planning.*) A student proposes: “How far was the Hoare–Laval Plan (December 1935) the decisive blow to the League’s credibility?” Draft the research plan: the method (which kinds of sources) and a two-item mini-bibliography, and justify the question against the three tests. [6]

---

---

---

---

---

---

**3.2** (*Section 1, criterion A style.*) Evaluate Samuel Hoare’s memoir *Nine Troubled Years* (1954) for this investigation: origin, purpose, one value, one limitation. [4]

---

---

---

---

**3.3** (*Section 3, criterion C style.*) Write the reflection paragraph the worked investigation needs: name one source you could not use, one missing voice, and one thing the evidence could not settle, and say what each shows about how historians work. [4]

---

---

---

---