

3.1 The historical investigation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 25 marks**

KEY WORDS historical investigation • reflection

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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]
