

Exercise walk-through

3.1

Investigation and historical reflection: supported rehearsal

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · History · HL

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The method

Method — Worked example

Focus a question on an issue, period and setting that surviving sources can address. Build a source inventory, cite exact sources and distinguish evaluation, argument and reflection on historical method.

Task: only committee records survive. A pupil proposes to reconstruct everyone's feelings. Revise the question and reflect on the limitation.

Ask how the committee justified a bounded decision during a specified period, while noting that official records may omit dissent and users' experiences. Seek other surviving evidence without inventing testimony. Reflection explains selection and survival of records, not how hard the pupil worked.

Method — Worked example

Reflection explains selection and survival of records, not how hard the pupil worked

Original source / task evidence

Task: only committee records survive. A pupil proposes to reconstruct everyone's feelings.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Investigation and historical reflection

Original classroom evidence panel for Investigation and historical reflection

Exercises 2.1·3.1

2.1 For the worked case, identify the evidence and a conclusion it can support. Explain one material limit. [3]

3.1 A private letter survives after an official-record-only investigation. Is it automatically more truthful? Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

Exercises 2.1-3.1

2.1 For the worked case, identify the evidence and a conclusion it can support. Explain one material limit. [3]

2.1 Ask how the committee justified a bounded decision during a specified period, while noting that official records may omit dissent and users' experiences. Seek other surviving evidence without inventing testimony. Reflection explains selection and survival of records, not how hard the pupil worked. Authored points for identifying relevant evidence, explaining a supported inference and a material limit.

3.1 A private letter survives after an official-record-only investigation. Is it automatically more truthful? Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

3.1 No. It can reveal a different perspective or omitted experience, but purpose, author, context and corroboration still matter. Revise the source range and question if justified; private status alone establishes neither accuracy nor representativeness. Authored points for a relevant judgement, reason tied to the case and justified qualification or method. Accept a supported alternative.