**Higher History**

Exam skills



*How to answer Source questions*

**How to answer Source questions**



This guide will explain to you how to write an essay for the Higher History exam.

The Contents list below takes you through all the possible questions you may need answers to.

**Remember:** ask your teacher if you need extra help with this.

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**The Exam**

* Final exam will take **2 hours 20 minutes**
* The exam is in two parts:
	+ Essay questions x 2
	+ Sources questions x 3
* **All parts** must be completed within the 2 hours 20 minutes
* Exam is out of **60 marks** (**20 marks** per essay and for all source questions)
* Final mark is out of **90 marks** (including Assignment)

**Sources questions**

There are three types of source questions (which develop your National 5 skills).

* How fully?
* Evaluate the usefulness
* Comparison

**Suggested timing**

You have to complete all questions within the allotted time. It is up to you how to do this but you **may wish to use** **the timings** below:

* Essay question 1 45 minutes
* Essay question 2 45 minutes
* Sources questions 50 minutes

For each **source question** you could use the following time suggestions:

* How fully? 25 minutes
* Evaluate the usefulness 15 minutes
* Comparison 10 minutes

**Marking information**

The three Sources questions are worth a total of **20 marks**.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Marks** | **Summary** |
| How fully? | 9 | As in National 5, remember to use A-I-D to answer these questions (**A**nswer, **I**ncludes, **D**oesn’t include).* You can get up to **3 marks** for identifying relevant facts from the source
* You can get up  **7 marks** for identifying relevant facts from your own knowledge which are not included in the source

**NOTE:** *If you do not answer the question (explain how useful the source is) you can get a maximum of* ***2 marks****.* |
| Evaluate the usefulness | 6 | As in National 5, you will get **1 mark** for each valid piece of information:* Origin:
	+ Who made the source? And why does it matter?
	+ When was the source made? And why does it matter?
	+ Type of source? And why does this matter?
	+ Why was the source made?
* Relevant facts from the source (up to **2 marks**)
* Relevant facts from your recall (up to **2 marks**)

Your answers have to be more detailed than National 5.  |
| Comparison | 5 | 1 mark = overall comparison of the two source views **e.g.** “both sources agree Wallace was victorious”1 mark = developed overall comparison1 mark = specific comparison **plus** evidence/quotes\*\* Note the change from National 5 |

**How fully? questions**

These questions are worth up to **9 marks**.

As in National 5, remember to use A-I-D to answer these questions (**A**nswer, **I**ncludes, **D**oesn’t include).

* You can get up to **3 marks** for identifying relevant facts from the source
* You can get up  **7 marks** for identifying relevant facts from your own knowledge which are not included in the source
* **NOTE:** *If you do not answer the question (explain how useful the source is) you will only get a maximum of* ***2 marks****.*

** Example How fully? answer **

Source B explains the reasons why people left Scotland fairly well.

The source mentions the potato famine in the Highlands in 1846 which led to large numbers of people leaving rather than starving. **(1 mark for relevant fact from source)** It mentions specifically how landlords evicted crofters to make way for sheep farming in order to make their land profitable. **(1 mark for relevant fact from source)** It also talks about the terrible living conditions which drove people to look for a better life abroad, such as the prevalence of diseases like cholera. **(1 mark for relevant fact from source)**

However the source does not mention all of the reasons why people left Scotland. It fails to mention the decline of the kelp industry which forced Scots to look for work elsewhere. **(1 mark for a relevant point from own knowledge)** Also when the herring industry declined after World War One many people left Scotland. **(1 mark for a relevant point from own knowledge)** Other workers, such as handloom weavers from the Western Isles, left as they couldn’t compete with new factories in the towns and cities in the central belt. **(1 mark for a relevant point from own knowledge)**

*Marks 6/9*

**‘Evaluate the usefulness’ questions**

These questions are worth up to **6 marks**.

As in National 5, you will get **1 mark** for each valid piece of information:

* Origin Who made the source? And why does it matter?

When was the source made? And why does it matter?

Type of source? And why does this matter?

Why was the source made?

* Relevant facts from the source (up to **2 marks**)
* Relevant facts from your recall (up to **2 marks**)

*Your answers have to be more detailed than National 5.*

** Example ‘Usefulness’ answer **

Source A is useful as evidence of Scottish involvement on the Western Front because it is from a diary of an officer from the Black Watch who will be well informed about the Scots’ military involvement at the Battle of Loos. **(1 mark for Origin: Authorship)** As it is a diary it is also useful as it will give an eyewitness account of the battle. **(1 mark for Origin: Purpose)**

The source was written at the end of October, 1915 which makes it useful because it was written in the immediate aftermath of the battle. **(1 mark for Origin: Timing)**

The content is useful about the Scots’ role in World War one because it tells us how many Scots soldiers died (19 officers, 230 men). **(1 mark for source content)** It is also useful as the Black Watch were part of 30,000 Scots who fought at Loos, showing a great deal of Scottish involvement. **(1 mark for own knowledge)**

However the source does not describe other ways the Scots were involved. The Scot General Douglas Haig made a huge contribution to the war as he was Commander-in-Chief of British forces after 1915. **(1 mark for own knowledge)**

**Comparison questions**

These questions are worth up to **5 marks**.

1 mark = overall comparison of the two source views **e.g.** “both sources agree Wallace was victorious”

1 mark = developed overall comparison

1 mark = specific comparison **plus** evidence/quotes\*

* \* Note the change from National 5

** Example Comparison answer **

Sources A and B agree that Hugh Cressingham was killed and skinned by the Scots after the battle. Source A says Cressingham, a leader amongst the English knights, was killed during the battle and later skinned. Source B agrees when it says “the treacherer Cressingham was skinned following his death in battle”. **(1 mark for a comparison supported by quotes from source)**

Sources A and B agree that William Wallace and Andrew Murray were leaders of the Scots at Stirling and that the Scots were victorious. **(1 mark for overall comparison)** However they disagree about the importance of the English mistakes made by English leader, Warrenne. **(1 mark for developing the overall comparison)**

*Marks 3/5*