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The student's Guide to National 5 History



The Three types of Essay Skills questions you will be asked.

The Three types of Source Evaluation questions you will be asked.

Essay Skills Question. Type 1-Describe

Task- To describe events, conditions or circumstances.
Marks available- 5 or 6 marks.

Example

Describe the effects of the slave trade on African societies.

For a “Describe” question you should write about the events which happened in the context in which you are being asked.

For this question you must describe the good or bad effects of slavery on African societies.

Write one sentence for each point of information you wish to convey. You could start like this-

The slave trade had many effects on Africa. When Africans were captured to be sold as slaves, the communities they came from were poorer as a result. There were fewer able bodied men to work the land, so less food was produced.

This earns you 1 mark. Write 4-5 more sentences in order to ensure you gain full marks.

You could include:

- The fear of being captured.
- The fact that kings and chiefs who had once protected their people now became involved in the slave trade.
- Villages became deserted
- Agriculture near the coast was devoted to supplying the slave ships

Remember to take a new sentence each time you introduce a new point

Essay Skills Question Type 2-Explain

Task- to say why events happened
to display understanding of cause and consequence.

Example

Explain the reasons why the actions of the militant suffragettes harmed the campaign for votes for women (5)

When answering an “Explain” question you must be sure to convey the reasons why events happened and to state what led on from there.

Write one sentence for each point of information you wish to mention. You should use link words. Here are examples of link words:

As a result of this.... the consequences of this action were.... In response to this action.... Despite....this led to....Finally.....

You might start your answer to this **Explain** question by saying

One reason why the actions of the suffragettes harmed the campaign was because many people felt that women were behaving in an irresponsible way, so they could not support the campaign.

Write four sentences, each explaining how the ways in which the suffragette campaign could be seen in a negative light and how this harmed the campaign.

Remember to take a new sentence for each point make. Include one extra point just in case one of your points is not credited with a mark.

Knowledge and Understanding-Question Type 3 – Assess the importance of

Task- to make it clear that you understand that several factors can combine to cause things to happen.

Example

To what extent was Hitler’s rise to power in 1933 due to violence and intimidation? (8)

To respond to this type of question you should begin with the factor which has been stated. This is sometimes called the isolated factor because the question setter has taken **one** of the reasons why an event happened and is asking you whether this is the main or only reason.

You could start like this.

“Violence and intimidation led to Hitler’s rise to power to a fair extent. Hitler’s private army, the SA, was prepared to beat up any opposition to the Nazi Party.” (1 mark)

Now you should start to earn more marks. *“The SA was prepared to fight with communists and to destroy their printing presses so that they would attract less votes. This shows that violence and intimidation was used to increase votes by discrediting opponents or scaring people into supporting the Nazis.”*

Then you must add your Recall on some of the other reasons

“There were, however, several other factors which also helped Hitler rise to power. There was……”

You can write about:
The Wall Street Crash
The use of propaganda
Hitler's policies

Continue until you feel you have earned 5 or 6 points. It can be two points on violence and intimidation and three points on the other factors, or any combination you like. The main thing is that you must show balance in your answer. That means further information on the factor they have asked you about, plus other relevant facts from your own Recall.

The rest of the 8 marks are allocated AS FOLLOWS:

1 mark for the answer being presented in a structured way, with knowledge being organised in support of different factors.

1 mark for a valid judgement or overall conclusion.

Example

In conclusion, violence and intimidation were important in persuading Germans to vote for the Nazis.

1 mark for a reason being provided in support of the conclusion. Example

It is likely that the Nazis may not have got into power without the contribution of the SA because.....



The 3 types of Source Evaluation Questions

Type 1 Evaluating the usefulness of one source in terms of its origin, purpose, content and/or context.



You will get 2 of these in your National 5 exam.
5 or 6 marks will be awarded for each.

The task This question is included in order to make you think about the source provided. Why was it said or written? Why does the person hold that viewpoint? Did he witness the events

concerned or is he an academic who has researched the topic?
Does he provide a full account of events?
While all historical sources are useful to some extent, few sources tell you all the information you need to know on any one topic.

Here is an "evaluate the usefulness" question from the Era of the Great War

Source C was written by a British government official in the early 1900s.

Source C

The German people dream of getting a great empire. They believe that to become a world power, Germany must gain land overseas. An empire requires Germany to build up a great navy. Such ambition is a clear threat to Britain.

Task Evaluate the usefulness of Source C as evidence of the growing tension between Britain and Germany before 1914?

Question How do I answer this one?

Answer You must ask yourself:

- 1 Who wrote it, and why does that make it useful?
- 2 When did he write it? Is it within the time period I am being asked about?
- 3 Why is he writing it? Is it an official report? Is it for a diary or a newspaper?
- 4 What does it tell us?
- 5 What does it not tell us?

Start with your judgment

"Source C is partly useful as evidence of the growing tension between Britain and Germany before 1914"

For "Who wrote it?" You could say

"Source C was written by a British government official who would have visited Germany, met German officials or might know what

*the German people wanted through foreign office information. **This makes the source useful as evidence of growing tension between Germany and Britain.***

(This gets one mark for authorship)

For "When did he write it?" you could say

*"Source C was written in the 1900s which is during the period of increasing tension between Britain and Germany. **This makes the source useful as we get a contemporary view of events.**"*

For "why is he writing it?" you could say

*"Source C may have been written in order to brief members of Parliament or to prepare a report. **This makes the source useful as it will have lots of important, factual details to share with parliament**"*

For "what does it tell us?" give a brief summary;

*"Source C tells us that Germany wishes to build up her empire. As a government official, the author sees a large German navy as being a threat to Britain. **This makes the source useful as naval rivalry was a key cause of tension prior to WWI.**"*

For "What does he not tell us?" you could say

"Source C does not, however tell us that Britain was partly to blame for the tension as she owned one quarter of the globe at this time. The German Kaiser had tried to gain territories in North Africa and had been warned for his interference by the British and French."

Each point you make earns one mark.

Take a new sentence each time you begin a point.

Be aware of the Marks allocation for "Evaluate the usefulness"

A maximum of 4 marks can be given for authorship/type of source/ purpose/timing(WHO/WHEN/WHY)
A maximum of 2 marks can be given for content (WHAT)
A maximum of 2 marks can be given for what the source does not tell us (LIMITATION)

Now we will look at Question type 2, the Comparison.

How do I do the Developed comparison?

The outcome being assessed here is:

Can you compare 2 sources describing their similarities and/or differences.

Source A describes Hitler speaking at a Nazi rally.

Source A

When Hitler stepped onto the platform there was not a sound to be heard. Then he began to speak, quietly at first. Before long however his voice had risen to a hoarse shriek that gave an extraordinary effect. He was holding the crowd, and me, under his hypnotic spell. I don't know the emotions that swept over me as I listened to this man. When he spoke of the disgrace of Versailles, I felt ready to jump on any enemy.

Source B also describes Hitler speaking at a Nazi rally.

Source B

When Hitler moved onto the stage 100,000 people became silent. Hitler started his speech very quietly. People had to strain to hear him. By the end, however he was yelling at the crowd. Hitler spoke of how awful the treaty of Versailles was and of the need to tear it up. The crowd was hypnotised by Hitler. When he finished the audience rose and cheered and cheered.

Compare the views of Sources A and B about Hitler as a speaker.

How do I do this one?

1. Make your judgment “*Sources A and B agree that Hitler was a good speaker.*”
2. Decide which points both sources agree on. –example- “*The sources agree that Hitler was able to hypnotise his audience.*” **This is a statement of simple comparison and earns 1 point.**
3. **Now find the evidence in each source which supports your original statement.**
4. Add these to your statement- “*Source A says that Hitler was able to hold a crowd under a hypnotic spell and source B says the crowd was hypnotised by Hitler*”

When you add supporting evidence from the sources to show where the agreement is, your comparison then becomes a Developed Comparison and earns you 2 marks. Now add 1 or 2 more developed comparisons.

Remember:

Simple comparison 1 mark

If you develop it 2 marks

You can quote the supporting evidence or paraphrase it.

To earn 4 marks 2 developed comparisons(or 4 simple ones if you are really struggling!)

You should also address the question- “Therefore the sources totally/partially agree/disagree”

Type 3. How fully?

You will get 2 of these in the National 5 exam.

The question is there to test the extent of your knowledge on a topic you have studied.

You must include Recall in order to gain a pass in this one.

The outcome being tested here is twofold. Can you interpret the content of a source and then place the source in its wider context?

Source Z is from “Germany, 1918-1945” by J A Cloake.

Throughout its life the Weimar government had few real supporters. It was disgraced by the French occupation of the Rhur. The period of inflation in the early 1920s created insecurity and suffering amongst all classes and most people blamed it on the Weimar government. When the Wall Street crash triggered the Great Depression, the measures taken by the Weimar government to cope with the crisis further angered the majority of Germans. Many looked for alternative solutions.

How fully does Source Z show why the Weimar government was so unpopular?

How do I do this one?

Step 1

Begin *“The source partly explains the reasons why the Weimar government was unpopular.*

The source tells us that.....

(Use 3 of the points from the source. Do not just Copy them. Explain in your own words.)

Step 2

“However, the source fails to mention other reasons why Weimar was unpopular. These were.....

Scoring

5 or 6 marks. But Beware! **you will only score 2 marks if you miss out either the Presented Evidence or the Recall**