

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE History B

OCR GCSE in History: J417

Unit: A971/13

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE History specification for teaching from September 2009.

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OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

7(a) Study Source C. How far does this source explain the effects of the Wall Street Crash? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>This source certainly describes one of the effects of the Wall Street Crash. When Wall Street crashed on 29th October 1929 thousands of businesses went bust or had to lay off workers. Without wages coming in many people couldn’t afford to pay their way and had to leave their homes and go to live in Hoovervilles. Hoovervilles were tiny and made out of scrap materials – “wooden boxes, metal cans, strips of cardboard or old tar paper.” They were named after President Hoover, the do-nothing president, because people blamed him for the situation they were in because he did nothing to help them.</i></p> <p><i>However, this was not the only effect. Thousands of banks failed because they had recklessly loaned money for speculation and as confidence in the banking system fell, people began to withdraw money. Banks failing meant many people lost their savings which is not mentioned in the source.</i></p> <p><i>Farmers also really suffered because the 1920s had not been that kind to them anyway. Farmers couldn’t pay their mortgages to the banks and their farms were repossessed. Some set off for California to try to get jobs fruit picking.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This answer uses contextual knowledge effectively to explain the source. The candidate explains the effects of the Wall Street Crash – workers losing their jobs and therefore their homes and being forced to live in Hoovervilles – and links this clearly to the public perception of President Hoover as the “do-nothing president”. Contextual knowledge is used to explain two effects of the Wall Street Crash that cannot be ascertained from the source – the failure of the banks and problems in farming. The candidate has understood the source well and has used contextual knowledge of the effects of the Wall Street Crash to assess the “how far” element of the question.</p>

7(a) Study Source C. How far does this source explain the effects of the Wall Street Crash? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

Candidate style answer

In the 1930s the Wall Street Crash of 1929 put America in a depression. People were homeless and had to live in Hoovervilles because they could not afford to pay the mortgage and had lost their homes. In the source it tells us about Hoovervilles - it describes them as the "size of a dog house," so they were very small.

This tells us a little about the effects of the Wall Street Crash but it doesn't tell us about the bank crisis, problems for farmers or any other important effects.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

This answer uses contextual knowledge to explain why people had to live in the accommodation described in the source. The candidate then identifies one further effect of the Wall Street Crash not given in the source – the bank crisis – and writes that there were problems for farmers, though the nature of the problems is not specified. This answer does not explain the banking crisis; this could have been done by reference to the banks calling in outstanding loans, to people losing confidence in the banks and withdrawing their money and to banks having to stop trading. To gain credit for the reference to farmers, the candidate needed to be specific about the nature of the problem and then explain the problem.

7 (b) Study Source D. Does this photograph prove that Hoover’s policies did little to help people during the Depression? Use the source and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

Candidate style answer	Examiner’s commentary
<p><i>This source shows some children of Bonus Marchers begging for money as they wait for their fathers to return. The Bonus Marchers were men who had fought in the First World War and who asked for their bonus payment early because many of them were facing starvation. They camped peacefully outside the White House. Hoover would not pay the bonus early. Instead he asked General McArthur to handle them and McArthur convinced himself with little or no evidence that the marchers were communist agitators and used tear gas and burnt down their camp. Hoover did not admit he had made a mistake and instead “thanked God the USA still knew how to deal with a mob.” It looked like he didn’t care about the American people; these men had fought for their country and now when they needed help Hoover wouldn’t give them any. Hoover felt they should help themselves; he believed in rugged individualism.</i></p> <p><i>Hoover was not an entirely do nothing president. He set up the Reconstruction Finance company to help prop up banks and he cut taxes to try and stimulate spending. However, he was reluctant to go against the basic Republican policies. He believed that governments should not interfere in business or in people’s lives so he did very little to help ordinary people. Hence in the source it says, “Hard times are hovering over us.”</i></p> <p><i>In conclusion this photograph does not entirely prove that Hoover did little to help people because we know he did try to do something. However, the source shows that Hoover did not do enough to help people in the Depression.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>The candidate displays detailed contextual knowledge relating to the photograph, and has used this knowledge effectively to explain how the photograph shows that Hoover did little to help this particular group of people during the Depression. Commentary about the plight of the Bonus Marchers has been linked to Hoover’s belief in rugged individualism and also to the perception that he did not care about the American people. The candidate balances the argument by using contextual knowledge to explain the positive help offered by Hoover.</p>

7(b) Study Source D. Does this photograph prove that Hoover’s policies did little to help people during the Depression? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

Candidate style answer	Examiner’s commentary
<p><i>Source D is a picture of two children in a Hooverville. In between them are signs “Hoover’s tobacco fund” and “Hard times are hovering over us”. This suggests that Hoover, the Republican, isn’t helping people. Being a Republican, he doesn’t believe that the state should help people, even when they are in poverty, like they are in the photo. He was a do nothing president who believed that the economy went around in cycles of boom and bust and that prosperity was just around the corner. He believed in Republican policies and thought that if he helped too much people would be unwilling to work and help themselves.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This answer focuses upon the conditions of poverty shown in the photograph. The candidate has used contextual knowledge to explain how Hoover did nothing to help the people like those shown in the photograph because of his Republican policy of self-help. However, the candidate has only looked at the negative side here; consideration has not been given to ways in which Hoover tried to help. Examples of positive help could be explanation of the role of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, money given by Hoover’s government for a building programme to provide new jobs and Hoover’s attempts to encourage business leaders not to cut wages.</p>

7(c) Study Source E. What is the message of this cartoon? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>The message of this cartoon is that Hoover's policies have failed and the US has crashed. Roosevelt is going to take the driving seat in helping to solve the country's problems. This is shown in the source by a man representing Roosevelt about to get in a motor-car labelled the "U.S.". He is rolling up his sleeves getting ready to sort out the mess. He is the new driver of the country. In the background President Hoover is running away from the scene. From my knowledge I know that this is true because Roosevelt won a landslide victory in the election. The people of America seemed to like his democratic ideas of "active government" and they seemed willing to try out his "New Deal" that he promised.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This answer focuses immediately on the question asked. The first sentence clearly gives the message of the cartoon. The candidate then uses details from the cartoon to support the message. This is followed by clear and relevant contextual knowledge to support the message. This answer is an excellent example of how to tackle a "what is the message" question. There is an ideal structure in this response –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message Cartoon support for message Contextual knowledge support for message.

7(c) Study Source E. What is the message of this cartoon? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

Candidate style answer

In the cartoon I can see a man smiling and rolling up his sleeves, a car labelled US with a fed up man driving it and a man with Hoover on his back running away. The man rolling up his sleeves is Roosevelt, the car is the US and the labelled man is Hoover. Hoover is running away in the opposite direction, as he wants to get away from the hard work.

The message of the cartoon is that Roosevelt is taking over the country.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

The first paragraph of this answer is a low level only as the candidate has only described the surface features of the source. The candidate has not yet focused the answer on the actual question "What is the message of this cartoon?"

In the second paragraph the candidate gives a message but it is not the 'main' message intended by the cartoonist. It is important that the candidate, through interpretation of the cartoon, finds the main message.

Candidates should avoid beginning their answers to this type of question with a description of what they can see in the source; this is not what the question asks for. They need to focus immediately upon the main message of the cartoon and use the cartoon details and their contextual knowledge to support their interpretation.

9(a) Describe what Roosevelt did in the first Hundred Days of his Presidency.	
Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>Roosevelt passed a huge amount of legislation to try and help Americans. He closed all the banks for four days and then backed 5000 banks to show Americans their money was safe. He gave immediate financial relief to those who needed it through F.E.R.A. He gave fireside chats on the radio to instill confidence in Americans.</i></p>	<p>High level response The candidate has clearly demonstrated the ability to recall factual knowledge here. The candidate has given four relevant aspects and supporting detail for some aspects. The answer is well focused upon the question's requirements.</p>

9(a) Describe what Roosevelt did in the first Hundred Days of his Presidency.	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<i>He gave fireside chats to America. He thought the fireside chats would make Americans trust him.</i>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This answer gives one relevant aspect "fireside chats", with supporting detail. The candidate does need to demonstrate knowledge of other aspects of Roosevelt's first Hundred Days. This could include the Alphabet Agencies, the granting of emergency powers from Congress and the scale of the legislation introduced.</p>

9(b) Explain why the New Deal was opposed by Republicans.	
Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>Republicans opposed the New Deal because many of them were businessmen and they didn't like schemes like the NRA which set out fair wages and limited workers' hours. This was voluntary but if they joined the scheme it meant they had to pay their workers more and this would cut into their profits.</i></p> <p><i>Many Republicans thought that if people were poor it was because they were lazy, so it was their own fault. They believed in rugged individualism where people helped themselves. They didn't believe that the government should give them help because it would make people depend on the state all the time.</i></p> <p><i>Republicans also claimed that Roosevelt was acting like a dictator with his New Deal and he was trying to make the government too powerful. They said that the TVA and NRA schemes were just like the communist economic planning of the USSR; they believed that the TVA created unfair competition for private companies.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This answer focuses immediately upon the question. Each paragraph has a developed explanation of why the Republicans opposed the New Deal – their role as businessmen, their belief in rugged individualism and their distaste for any policy that gave the government too much power.</p>

9(b) Explain why the New Deal was opposed by Republicans.	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Republicans thought the New Deal alphabet agencies were spending too much money. They said it was not fair to make wealthy people pay high taxes and then use the money to pay poor people for doing nothing or to do meaningless jobs like scaring pigeons.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>The answer clearly explains why Republicans opposed the New Deal –the focus here is on money being wasted. However, this is the only reason given and explained here; this type of question requires more than one reason to be explained. Candidates could also explain that Republicans opposed the New Deal because they believed in self-help and rugged individualism, because they believed that Roosevelt was acting like a dictator and because they felt that some of the New Deal schemes were unfair competition for private companies.</p>

9(c) How far was the New Deal successful in helping all Americans? Explain your answer.

Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>The New Deal was successful in helping some Americans, but not all. It helped the unemployed by giving them jobs through schemes such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Administration. The CCC gave jobs to single men under that age of 25; they cleared land, planted trees to stop soil blowing away and strengthened river banks for flood control. The PWAs created millions of jobs by using government money to build dams, bridges, roads, schools and airports. The TVA concentrated on building dams on the Tennessee River. This solved the problems in the area where the river would flood in the wet season but there would be hardly any water in the dry season. The TVA work meant that the dry land could be irrigated and power stations were built at the dams to provide cheap electricity. It also created thousands of new jobs.</i></p> <p><i>The AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Agency) helped farmers as it paid them to produce less food. This forced prices up and some farmers' incomes doubled between 1933 and 1939. The AAA gave farmers advice on how to protect their soil and how to modernise their farms.</i></p> <p><i>The FERA helped to stop millions of poor people from starving by providing emergency relief. \$500 million was spent on soup kitchens and people were also given blankets and clothing.</i></p> <p><i>Although the New Deal did certainly help some Americans, it did not help them all. Black Americans still faced discrimination and racism. Some New Deal agencies would not give work to black people or gave them lower wages. Roosevelt failed to pass civil rights laws, particularly an anti-lynching law. He said that he needed the support of the Democratic congressmen in the south to carry through the New Deal and they were very much opposed to civil rights for black people.</i></p> <p><i>The Social Security Act did not help all the people it was meant to. Many were excluded from social security. State governments were required by the act to provide money for women and their dependent children, but a number of states tried to avoid paying this by introducing other conditions such as no payments for women with illegitimate children. Also 5 million farm workers and domestic workers were excluded from social security.</i></p> <p><i>In conclusion, it is clear that the New Deal did help a lot of Americans, but certainly not all of them. Native Americans remained poor and excluded, even though the New Deal had introduced two acts to help them, the Indian Reorganisation Act and the Indian Reservation Act. Even though the New Deal helped people the economy soon went back into recession when Roosevelt cut spending on it in 1937. In spite of all the jobs provided by the New Deal there were still six million unemployed in 1941, and it was only the USA going to war that solved the country's unemployment problem.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is a detailed response to the question. The candidate sets the scene by stating in the opening paragraph that the New Deal was successful in helping some Americans, but not all. The first paragraph focuses on how the New Deal helped unemployed people, the second upon the problems solved by the TVA, the third upon the help given to farmers and the fourth upon poor people. Each paragraph clearly explains how the New Deal helped a particular section of American society. The candidate has a detailed knowledge of the New Deal and has used this effectively to explain the success of the New Deal in helping some Americans.</p> <p>The candidate then balances the answer by looking at the other side of the argument, "Although the New Deal did certainly help some Americans, it did not help them all." The lack of help given to black people and to some people in need of social security are both clearly explained.</p> <p>The final paragraph evaluates "how far" the New Deal was successful by demonstrating that even where the New Deal introduced legislation that was successful, it was not totally successful. The examples given and explained here relate to the Native Americans, to the return to recession when New Deal funding was reduced and to unemployment. The answer has a very clear and effective structure, focused upon addressing both sides of the argument.</p>

9(c) How far was the New Deal successful in helping all Americans? Explain your answer.	
Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>The New Deal helped lots of American people. Schemes such as the CCC helped to give unemployed people jobs.</i></p> <p><i>The New Deal helped people who live in the Tennessee Valley area by building dams. This meant the river no longer flooded destroying their land, they had electricity and many people in the area now had jobs through working for the TVA.</i></p> <p><i>So the New deal was successful in providing jobs and help.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is a relatively brief response, but it does focus very clearly upon the success of the New Deal in helping Americans. The candidate has briefly explained how unemployed people were helped, and has given more developed explanations of the help given to people in the Tennessee Valley area and to industrial workers.</p> <p>However, the answer is unbalanced; it focuses only upon showing how the New Deal helped Americans. No consideration is given to how the New Deal did not help all Americans and therefore the candidate has not addressed the “how far” aspect of the question.</p> <p>The candidate should have considered how the New Deal did not help all Americans; this could include explaining to what extent the New Deal did not help black Americans, Native Americans, women and the problems still faced by industrial workers. Candidates could also explain that the New Deal did not deal totally with the problem of unemployment and explain how problems ensued once funding was cut in 1937.</p>