



A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y321/01 Summer 2023 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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Paper Y321/01 series overview

Y321 is one of twenty one units for Paper 3 of the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of at least one hundred years through an interpretation option on a named in-depth topic and two essays. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates are required to use contextual knowledge to test the views of two historians about one of the three named in-depth topics or an aspect of one. The question does not require them to comment on the style of writing or the provenance of the interpretation. In Section B candidates are required to answer two essay questions from a choice of three.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
 showed a clear understanding of the views of the two interpretations in relation to the question were able to use contextual knowledge to test the interpretations, linking that knowledge directly to the interpretation through evaluative words were able to consider both the strengths and limitations of both interpretations using contextual knowledge in answering the essay questions, covered the whole period in a balanced way adopted a thematic approach made links and comparisons between aspects of the topic explained the links and comparisons supported their arguments with precise and relevant examples reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question demonstrated an understanding and familiarity with the different command verbs, e.g. identify, describe, explain and discuss. 	 showed a limited understanding of one or both of the interpretations did not go beyond a basic explanation of part of the interpretation did not link any contextual knowledge directly to the interpretation and therefore did not evaluate the interpretation in answering the essay adopted a chronological rather than thematic approach did not make links or comparisons even if events from different parts of the period were discussed in the same paragraph did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Section A overview

To do well on Section A, candidates need to explain the view of each interpretation in relation to the question and then evaluate the interpretation by the application of contextual knowledge. Responses should show an understanding of the wider debate connected to the issue.

Question 1

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the Suez Crisis and the Second Arab-Israeli War. [30]

The interpretation question was, on the whole, answered well. The majority of candidates were able to access the higher levels by clearly linking their own knowledge to the views and opinions mentioned. At the top end of the mark range, candidates used precise and accurate own knowledge. They explained that Interpretation A argues that a new Arab nationalism had emerged following the First Arab-Israeli War and that the area became of concern for Great Power politics, whereas B argues that the 1949 armistice agreements had not resolved problems, particularly of settlements and refugees.

The most successful responses dealt with each interpretation in turn before coming to a measured conclusion. Answers which attempted a thematic approach often were confused and lacked evaluation, leading to an essay-like approach. There was also an increased tendency in this series for some candidates to simply list the views presented without any supporting evidence.

Centres should be aware that credit is given in assessing the relative convincingness of the views that are present in each interpretation, and that this is tested by using wider contextual knowledge. Answers which proceeded to list impacts that were not present in each interpretation did not score highly, as they were not explicitly evaluating the view of each historian. This was often highlighted or prefixed by the phrase "fails to mention". Candidates should not be evaluating what is not there, but instead focusing on the actual views presented and testing them against historical knowledge. This tendency was more prevalent in this series than in the past.

Centres should also be aware that there is no requirement to mention other historians, nor indeed to evaluate their provenance.

Exemplar 1

1	Passage A argues that the influence of Great
-	powers and their political intersts in the region_
	is the most convincing explanation of the
	Sur cosis and second Aras-Isreali war.
	Passage & argues that Britain and Frances' political
	intersity in the region, such as winning back
	influence in Israel and reassering control of
	over the Arab nationalist stats, such as
	Equipt and Algeria, doe is what paved the
	way for the suez chois of 1956. Paisage
	B on the other hand differe and argues that
	tensions between Areas states and the status of
	Palestinian repugees after the events of the
	First Ares- Irraeli was in 1948 led to
	bitteness from the Aras staty towards Israel
	and subsequent insecurity for the Isneal,
	exercises leading them to lead their prentime
	attacks on the Arass. Overall passage A
	offere a more convincing explanation of
	the suez crisis and second Aras Israeli
	was, as the role of Rritain and France
	is un deriable.
	Passage A argue that Britain and Francy
	is declining inpluence in the region and their
	aim to gain inplience and recisert
	control caused the events of the suer
	CASIT in 1956. Plays passage & stage
	Britain lost influence ones the zionists in 1948

this is valid because, to & Britaine mandate
In Palestine ended due to them being forced
out by aggress violent, terronst cettacke
by the zionist militant groups Irgun and
sterryung, in 1948 1946 the thing David
hatel, Batains headquaters in mandale palestire,
was bombed by Ingun, this shows
Britains decline by notion make of
influence oner the zionste, by and has the
 when opprantizing as they were effectively
Forced in fleeing the mandate, and then yere
Converte sections (et the families Ration without
 Sharry reasons as the to why Britain withod
to reathing their influence in the region through
 winning bade the sues canal in 1956 with
 the help of Israel. The interpretation Further
 stacy London did try to receivent their position
 with the bughdad pact. This is also vaid
 as due to the influence of Neerer
and the voice of the Arass, be convinced
 & Aras states not to sign the part, to
 he to as waser muself and not sign
the pact togainer which and also convinced
other Areas stated such as Jordan not to
either through his badio influence over
the radio I voice as the Arass'. Passage
A your goar on to say that this
manthas the Britaine luck up control cy
the region went on to invite Russian
Peretration. This is also valid as it

	1
	Russias influence over wasser was
	Shown in the czech time deal of 1954,
	where Russia helped Egypt develop its
	military. These events cell show why
-	Britain wished the reassent their power and
	dominion in the region, through embarcusing
	Nasser by reclaining the thesan
	newly rationalised and in 1956. Britaine
	emburasement and anger and Nasser basel
	due to his growing influence based over
	other Aras regions, and the as well
	_ at the called them to try and overthrow
	- hum by ruinning his newly established image
	ay the Hero of Aras nationalism. Forthermon
	the suer crox would allow Baterin to
	estaslish new relationships with the zionistr
	and regain influence in Israel. Interpretation
	A Aurther stacky that "Nasser replaced
	zionish as the the threat to the Pritish
	power have buse This is also valid
	ay Noyser valt influence oner Areas starg
	way clear, rebellione and upi Caused
	them to move away from pronkrith Britain,
	for example in Jordan, g. Bereral
100000	Glubb way dismissed as general as the
	Aras legion which effectively ended British
	Cantal at The Todania willing
	Control cy & the Jordonian Military.
	Furthermore in 1994 1958 10 pro-Britich
	Prime minister of Iraq was overthrown in

a Neroloubion. This therefore shows theat
Britain and France withed the end N were
angered by waysers line and his role in
 their deline in inflence and wished to
end him through Israel. Uscarel
way the interpretation is also valid in
thaving work to Israel stating Israel
was the beneficany as Bengunion way
tense and agter the events of us and the
Pragile aminice to-was was at not any ending
any wa moment, therefore brail wished
to force the Arass into recognising the
Sewith state and mathing peace without
Negotiation, the overthrow of Natser
through sure crisis is provided Israel
with a perfect opportunity to do so and
Storyere many Now Britain and France
were thing the hey cargere of the
Obstetrat were the Key causer of the
conflict as they of provided Israel
with the opportunity to gain peace
from the Arass. Overall Parrage A
is as a very continuing explanation
for the sull chois in 1956, as
it dearly shows the importance of
the breat Powers; Biltain and Gana
in intractiona to conflict to arris built
In intriguting to contrut to gain back cost influence over the region

	Parsage B on the other hand argues that
	inter-Aras rivaries and discontent due
	to the eperte of the 1948 was led
	the insecurity for treat lerad cauling
	the insecurity for tore Israel cauling them to instigute their prentime attacks
	in 1956 and 1967. Paisage & argues
	that the tattence of wasser role of
	Nasses the pease fire lines were bragile and
	contested This is varid because
	within Israel dep or the Arass where
	pleased with the lines. Israel feared
	the borders co femporary we borders
	were too small as they left the vulnerasle
	to attack from the Arass who were too
	Close. The Arabr on the other hand
	felt all land occupied claimed by brad
	way unjustified and belonged to the palestinia
	this is seen by the bastile rhetonic
-	- From Aros leaders such as Nourer through
	the voice of "leg - especially Naiser loss
	by such as throwing Israel into the sear
	This therefore shows then the situation
	after 48 way unstable and lacked
	security for Israel therfore causing the
	to act aggressively in the suezcusit
	to overthrow Nayser and the threat he
	profed the through his bestilling truesde
	poled by through his hostility towardy Isreal, and therefore Austremene
	by expanding their tenion det
	expanding their remiting first

 esser to establish greater security for
 example, ceasing the sinci pennsula
in 1956 and the concopying then
otterpation of again in 67 along with
the Golan hergery and the west Parts
and cara Passay. B also argue that
 the Future of Palymian repugees was also
an unresolved major source of lersion: this
is also valid as many thansand of
palestiniany were forced the the corad after
for events ay 1948, sach as Plan Daut
and the Deir Yarin massacre. Hang
repugees who report temporarily relocated
in Jordan, a curried out attacky of
Israel threatening their Sufly., therefore
leading strate offact. Passage B
Juster states treat the mutual rere
that the of insecently led all sides to
expect another round of fighting This
is not valid as the Arabs in 1956
posed le no serious threat to Isreal.
ther newly established governments and
militaries were dir organised and
 did not in anyway compare to Israely
g advanced military & y which was
 developed due to Frence military aid.
 Furthermore passage B fails to take
 IND account the role of Britain
 and france in providing Israel with the

1	Jermander viller and how have an Earlief on
	1956 the Parallel B is finder in
	1956. the Passage B is Further itwand of valid, however, as the bauty.
-	during the second Arab Israeli war were too
	alling Fi store to the due to the poo
	expand their borders die to daytag
	concerts aprilo for the safety of
	their stace leading them to orrapy the
	Bolan height Sinai pennisula.
	Ros Over all passage & does provide
	a somewhert convincing explanation
	for the suez cisis of the tensions
	between the Arab struct and Isreal
	where in fact threathing and seemed to
	a call for another round by fighting,
	However Parsage & fails to show
	the role of Great Powers in the
	conflict and giving the go a held
	to Israel in the case of both the
	suez cases and UPA's support for
	Isreall prentive war in 1967.
	To conclude payrage A provider a strong.
	Suez carisard 1967 was the
	suer carisara 1967 wer , as the
	role of Britain and Grance and
	their ains to regain rathence are
	undervable, Bitter & Furthermere
	Israel was fairly recire de to

 protection provided to ther advanued
 military provided to them from Grance
 and the USA about therefore showing
 that Britain and Francy, garavage
 indigation and planning ag the rulez
 CATIZ are a more lapartart concinunci
explanation for Israele involvement in
tu ruez corriz.

Exemplar 1 was marked in Level 6 and contains excellent knowledge and evaluation. It has sustained judgements at the end of each paragraph and in the conclusion, alongside an appropriate introduction. The response does not dwell on what is not present, but evaluates the views presented in the interpretations.

Section B overview

To do well on Section B, candidates need to make connections and links across the whole period, explaining similarities and differences between the events they are discussing in order to show an awareness of continuity and change across the whole period unless instructed otherwise. The comparisons made may be either between periods within the topic or between regions. The strongest responses will test a hypothesis and reach a supported judgement.

Question 2*

2* 'The Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995 were the most important turning point in relations between Israel and the Palestinians.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1908 to 2011?
[25]

This was a popular question. Candidates were able to focus on thematic paragraphs that were related to the relations between Israel and the Palestinians, for example political, geographical and religious relations.

At the top end of the mark range, candidates used the Oslo Accords at the start of each paragraph before comparing it to two other time periods/events in each paragraph. Successful responses were able to compare throughout the paragraph (this was a greater turning point than x because while x achieved this, y achieved this) and then concluded at the end of the paragraph whether the Oslo Accords or another event was the greatest turning point. The best conclusions assessed each theme in turn to reach a sustained judgement. The majority of candidates attempted this synthesis but it was more often than not a thematic list.

At the lower end of the mark range, candidates wrote about three time periods in total, either chronologically or as factors. Some candidates also neglected the fact that the question was on the Oslo Accords.

Furthermore, centres should be aware that this style of question is <u>not designed to assess whether two</u> <u>events were similar or not</u>; it is about assessing which is the greatest turning point. Candidates should be encouraged, for this type of question, to come to a sustained judgement about the importance of the event in the question in relation to others; not whether it was similar to them. This was more prevalent this series than either in 2022 or pre-Covid. Finally, candidates who did not cover the whole time period were not able to reach the higher levels.

Exemplar 2

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	important turning point in relationstetuces I small and
	Palestinians. Importance shall be gealofred by lan
	important an event was as the political (and iplanatio),
t	reitizing, and Geographical Cardemographic) relatinghips
	betren the Palestinnes al Israelis. Cotainly the Acards
	use inpertent tiploactically, osthey represent
-	constituted an Isroeli recognition us the Palestinine os on
	entity, but attainly and geographically ye talk me
	not estrely significant. Rather, the nost important
L	referres signediant for a for
	titaing point was the 1967 war, which her
	to the tragente to Political and geographical
	relationship beten de Palestinias and Israelos
2	changing trastaully.
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	Potitizenty spinting; the Uslo Accords were
	an important turning point often vepresentet
	they represented the Sirst instance us a peoce
	fulk where the Israelis represent vecogensed the
	Prestinions Crepresented by Arcusatustle P20) - a
	poplitical entity. Begrette tattes 030, the
	Toralis and rated regulations with the Palesting
	Avoryha proxy state such on the the in the
	1978 Complaid falts with 1989 Shanir
	Peose Plan. This, this new preachest led to
	Surfler direct negation between the Isvalts and
	Relesting, osseen in the 2000 Camp Park
	talks and the 2002 Arab Reace Plan. However,
	the Oslo Accurs we not de nost impetent
	polotically, as they we nerely a continuation of
	the need for an international solution to the

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	۰ .	Israli-Palestinia conflict that was created by
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		Pulestore on the 1967 war chang Suidantely
		charged the native us god tool relators Letter the
		Torollis on paletrons, or the Palestining the no
		not lager had any lad, here then they
	12	hud resided in the hest Bark and Gaza Strip.
		Those remaral of a Palestinin land termseit
		So that any resolution to the Forme Palestinin issue tuch
		to be carried out internationally, as the Paleshins
		have no shyle to Speak of . Conferring, Pre-1967
		the Palestining had polited apeartoles or sen inthe
		St 1932 Servation offle Istigal parts on the
	ā.	1135 Sermfon of the Arub Highy Committee, but
509 1 3	- Sk	Post 1967 they have to look to other states
	2	to Socilifate the a solution. Att alt Further,
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		Israeli recognition of Palston perce legates, but
		they and don't set the precedent of interaction

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allel 2 2.

Exemplar 2 was marked at the top of Level 5. There is clear comparison and evaluation of at least three examples, and they are compared to the Oslo Accords. There are also good end of paragraph judgements and conclusion. The comparison between turning points could have been more developed in places to reach Level 6, and the conclusion should have covered all of the themes mentioned.

20

Question 3*

3* To what extent did the nature of Arabism change in the period from 1908 to 2011?

[25]

This was answered by a number of candidates. Following the trend of previous series, the majority of candidates approached the question thematically, using, for example, political Arabism, geography and land as their themes. Others focused on opposition to the great powers, Zionism and ethnic divides. Either route was fine, though an overreliance on Nasser as an example (and not adopting a broad approach) did hinder some candidates as they were unable to reach good levels of synthesis.

At the top end of the mark range, candidates assessed three or four time periods within each paragraph, evaluating the level of change in each area. Finally, responses in the top level contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion which contained a clear response to the question.

At the lower end of the mark range candidates approached their response either chronologically or were unable to compare time periods within thematic paragraphs. The latter was common, when candidates realised they had to write thematically, but then listed the time periods without comparing the level of change.

Assessment for learning

Successful responses grouped two time periods when Arabism changed and two time periods when there was continuity in each paragraph. This was often using the word "similarly" to signpost and then explained the level of change/continuity. Answers that were less strong did not develop the response and simply used the word.

Exemplar 3

3	An the nature of Arasisma and Pan-Arasism
	Aras nationalism throughout the period of
	1908 - 2011 in the Middle East has
	remained focused on confronting Great powers.
	and opposing zionism, however throughout
	the period key chang events such as the
	creation of the state of Israel and
	the Rise of Nassearm as have charged
	the nature of Pan Arasism, Wasser
	Gocussed Arasism on opporing creat power
	and at all costs; and the Otherse
	establishment of the state of irrael
	united the Arras state under opposition
	to the state in a way trey were
	not previously united, theopene the
	nature cer Arabism did Notcheineze turoughert
	the period as its essence remained controlling
	creat obvers and Israel.

On way Arabirm remained constant in the Middle East from 1908 -2011 thar way 5n 10 opposition Great Opposing poverle Bahsh French Colonial n Manda the shaver that for example n-e NOD 1925 Syran the In Great revolt Coursed any how Arasim was on con from ting Fu French nul Auguare aching CO1 Britain through nationalipation OSING the OP 1954 , 64 in eno canal 0 K an shows Arasism then how control Bon foursted back NOU ON taking Burthemore 1973 novers the na

oil Embargo show how Aros Pan-Arching
 contronted treat powers in their involvement
in the region and chang Arus demands
to se heard. All three example show
how trass united under contrarting
breat powers across be time period.
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Ollepahon, Repable like wire Aras
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In Narser blatant apposition of Brith
Bitish colonial control over the suez
cenal and poose the regross economic
resources. Anong the similarity
the oil Embargo central Aros store oil

in their apposi demand to be staty 64 UCA head the . the oil embargo sitter from succes the other two unique in 11-3 cer 14 15 aquint pre West weapon isation cet oil der use of oil bargaining and the as a a opposed Syrian Revolt Chip the to 1925 and rechangelisation as the WHICH ained ranal reed 10 ain autonomy Grom control- and Pritain this theyare Heat sherry France influence of the Green Great even as the region declines and the paren IA rejoures Natonal re Anth that their He Canal Hrough and 011 as Poued Shill OPE(Great ppicoggo a constant factor Constand

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	Houever dispite tur Arosim does indered change but it after the rise ay Nassenn
	on as the signer Arasism becomes
	more radical. Before Newsenm
	Arasim way much more moderale
-	as seen through showit Husseing
	willinghess to prophate with & Britain
	and do for example the MCMohen

 Hussein Correspondence, and the Hostensite
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 Nasser we see a change in Arosum and
Nassers controlion of Great powers
for example Nassers reputal to sign
the Bughdad ract in 1953 and har. Authem
after Nonserin the end of Nassensm
in the late 196015 we see a move
towards more moderate Arabien sace again
as seen through the pire of sunche inthence
and their a close relationship the states
once again anthing under Pan Aras un remaine
rudral and in contronvice - offering
Great Povers as shown in opposition
Balance ware and in 2003.
Before Wassenson, is and under
 the Hashenite monarchy Arab states
 were par more likely to regotiate
 with breat powers as seen with
 Adbullar in Jorden and Ferral in Iraq.
 However by a major turning point for

as we lee Ards state more away
from oreat power and unite under
their opposition, for eacomple Jorden
in solidarity with Egypt and Mase
to join the pact against communisme
and We harther see the influence cy
of Nusser, new radical form a

m 2007 them how religioned dividy
induenced developments in the region.
All three conducts in thenced the
political developments within State. sections
violence in palisine caused Britain
to loose control of the region and
forced them to end their mandate
causing a power valceme where Isreal
were use to take control. like use
during the Cehenese civil wer
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conflicts between Muslime and meronite
military thrown or phrange led to
the down fall of the French placed
constitution in which maronite charking
held presidery allowed & Syna to lake

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 lectorian division dictated the new
Constitution and when electione
 were held in 2005 & pe people
voted on sectarian lines meaning
the stia megonity was this therefore
shews how religious rectinan violent

within countries grantly impacted the
politics grille cased ey the region.
Like wise ethnic divides also instrumed ether algion Ethnic divides we also
henerer led the to internal protoque
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 and not bit the meld of Turking
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oot fit his Aros mold. The
These were pauglinian Arabs
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to conclude Rel	igion held mione
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Middle East	

Exemplar 3 was marked Level 5. There is clear comparison and evaluation of at least three examples, and change/continuity is assessed. This is also a good example of the AfL point mentioned above. This response could have been more definitive in its argument and, on occasion, not argued chronologically.

Question 4*

4* 'Religion has had a greater impact than ethnicity on developments in the Middle East in the period from 1908 to 2011.' How far do you agree?

[25]

This was the least popular question on the examination paper. Most candidates split their response and wrote one paragraph on religion and one on ethnicity. This hindered their response as they were unable to come to a sustained judgement. The most successful responses adopted a thematic approach surrounding developments in the Middle East (such as political, economic, relations with foreign powers) and compared religion and ethnicity in each paragraph to come to a judgement on each theme.

At the top end of the mark range, candidates assessed two examples where religion had an impact and compared them to two ethnicity examples, within each paragraph, evaluating the level of change in each area. Finally, responses in the top level contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion which contained a clear response to the question.

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Reviews of marking	If any of your students' results are not as expected, you may wish to consider one of our post-results services. For full information about the options available visit the <u>OCR website</u> .
Access to Scripts	For the June 2023 series, Exams Officers will be able to download copies of your candidates' completed papers or 'scripts' for all of our General Qualifications including Entry Level, GCSE and AS/A Level. Your centre can use these scripts to decide whether to request a review of marking and to support teaching and learning.
	Our free, on-demand service, Access to Scripts is available via our single sign-on service, My Cambridge. Step-by-step instructions are on our <u>website</u> .
Keep up-to-date	We send a monthly bulletin to tell you about important updates. You can also sign up for your subject specific updates. If you haven't already, sign up here.
OCR Professional	Attend one of our popular CPD courses to hear directly from a senior assessor or drop in to a Q&A session. Most of our courses are delivered live via an online platform, so you can attend from any location.
Development	Please find details for all our courses for your subject on Teach Cambridge . You'll also find links to our online courses on NEA marking and support.
Signed up for ExamBuilder?	ExamBuilder is the question builder platform for a range of our GCSE, A Level, Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals qualifications. <u>Find out more</u> .
	ExamBuilder is free for all OCR centres with an Interchange account and gives you unlimited users per centre. We need an <u>Interchange</u> username to validate the identity of your centre's first user account for ExamBuilder.
	If you do not have an Interchange account please contact your centre administrator (usually the Exams Officer) to request a username, or nominate an existing Interchange user in your department.
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