

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y216/01 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 Y216/01 series overview

Y216/01 is one of twenty four units in Paper 2 for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay and candidates had to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short-answer essay question (a), candidates needed to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates needed to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels, candidates needed to assess the issues they discussed and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

This paper offered a real contrast between the pairs of questions. Question 1 was on aspects of the American West and somewhat open-ended; Question 2 was on the causes and course of the civil war and demanded specific, precise knowledge. The two questions were both popular.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short answer essay • reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important • linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question • discussed at least two relevant issues in depth • gave supporting detail, which was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way • produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response • were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Question 1 (a)

- 1 (a) Which of the following was the more important cause of westward expansion?
- (i) The fur trade
 - (ii) Prospecting for gold

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Good responses recognised that there was an important chronological distinction to be made between the two factors, the fur trade largely preceding prospecting for gold with little, if any, overlap. Making a case for the importance of the fur trade relied on this point; it was important because it was associated with exploration and the spread of romantic myths about the West. Better responses also recognised the centrality of the beaver trade and how this rose and fell, according to fashion and the unsustainable nature of beaver trapping on a big scale. Prospecting for gold usually centred on California, the Dakota Hills and the fact that, compared to the fur trade, much larger numbers of people were involved. This led, often coincidentally, to the growth of permanent settlements in the West.

Exemplar 1

a)	Lewis & Clark + German fur trading 1840s - limited - soon died out reliance on tech	Temporary gold mines Virginia City the gold rushes
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Prospecting for gold was the most ~~significant~~ important cause of westward expansion, as it provided the economic lure for settlers to establish long-lasting settlements. Although the influence of gold mining was ~~great~~ slightly limited by the fact that many settlements were temporary as ~~gold was soon~~ the gold source was quickly depleted, large corporate mining ~~ensured that~~ such as the Virginia Savage Mines ensured sustainable mining posts that were financially profitable. ~~The~~ The various gold rushes such as the California gold rush (1848), the discovery of gold in Montana (1860s) and the discovery of gold in the Black Hills (1876) attracted a large number of settlers (the population of San Francisco doubled) and the ~~as~~ rapid expansion of the federal government through conflicts such as the Great Sioux War. This meant that, attracted by the economic prospectus of gold, the federal government was able to secure not only the territorial claims but also the ideological, as Manifest Destiny justified the rapid expansion. Settlements such as Virginia City also developed as a result of sustained mining. Therefore, prospecting for gold is more

important as it provided the financial ~~and~~ intrigue for long-term settlement.

In comparison, the fur trade was a less important reason for westward expansion as it was short-lived. Although some companies such as the Hudson Bay ~~company~~ Trading company and some German entrepreneurs were able to take advantage of the fur trade, they remain a very ~~low~~ small portion of the population and hence were unable to attract more settlers. The fur trade was limited as the rapid depletion in the number of beavers and the decline of fur as a part of the contemporary fashion gradually died out in the 1840s. Furthermore, the lack of efficient transportation - the Union Pacific Railway was only graded in 1862 - meant that most were reluctant to move west for the fur trade. Therefore, its effects on westward expansion was limited ~~to~~ significantly by its short-lived nature.

In conclusion, prospecting for gold was the most important cause at the ~~for~~ continuous discovery of gold provided a powerful financial intrigue for settlers to go west and establish long-term settlements. In comparison, the short-lived fur trade had a limited financial intrigue and did not ~~allow~~ incentivise settlers to build sustainable posts, and is hence less significant.

Exemplar 1 does a very good job of explaining the relative importance of the two factors, using strong supporting detail. The judgement is substantiated but could be a little more developed, which was reflected in the Level 6: 9 marks given.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* 'Native American resistance to westward expansion in the 19th Century was a complete failure.' How far do you agree?

[20]

There was scope for many different approaches to this question, given its wide chronological span and focus on an overall explanation, rather than on specific factors. Popular and successful approaches often considered military resistance, cultural resistance and the evolving nature of government policy in this regard. Many candidates picked out the Native Americans' reluctance to co-operate effectively among themselves and the fact that towards the end of the period they were overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers, the advent of transcontinental railroads and the virtual extinction of the buffalo. Better responses pointed out that there was enough evidence to suggest that although resistance was a failure, it may not have been a 'complete failure'.

Exemplar 2

government throughout the period, these victories were short-lived as the US government was militarily equipped to fight a sustained modern warfare. This was because they were both militarily and ideologically equipped and ideologically justified in their westward expansion. For example, the federal government was able to use forts and winter campaigns to undermine the Native Americans, though who relied more on guerrilla warfare. The belief given by ~~was~~ Manifest Destiny, ~~and shown~~ justified by the statehood of western states such as California in 1850, meant that the federal government was able to ~~was~~ use its military resources on a justified basis, as shown by Chivington's mass slaughter in the Sand Creek Massacre. Westward expansion also provided the federal government with more funds to reinforce its army, benefitting from the sale of gold, for example. Therefore, the Native Americans failed to resist a militarily superior American government that had benefited vastly from westward expansion.

Politically, Native American resistance failed as when, as the federal government, guided by the economic intrigues of westward expansion, repeatedly broke treaties and ~~displayed a~~ ~~laissez-faire attitude to~~ ~~buffalo hunters~~. Although the federal government did give the Native Americans to write up treaties and recognised their 3/4 tribal majority, such

political recognition stopped at the second Indian Appropriation Act in 1871 and hence represents the failure of Native American fight for political recognition. Guided by a desire to expand both territorially and economically, the federal government was able to break treaties frequently and rely on its superior military resources to suppress Indian resistance. This can be shown by the broken ~~the~~ Second Treaty of Fort Laramie due to the discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the ~~Seminole~~ ~~war~~. Three Seminole wars fought as a result of the government's desire to gain Florida. Due to the tribal disagreements and a lack of understanding of the treaties, the Native Americans failed to negotiate fair terms and eventually ~~fell into the various~~ ^{gave in to} political exploitation of the government.

Culturally, The Native Americans were also ~~was~~ unsuccessful in resisting the assimilationist policies of the federal government, as, after being militarily weakened by the conflicts from the 60s and 70s, they were unable to resist ~~a~~ ^{against} a government which heavily depleted their natural resources and way of living. Although the Native Americans did resist ~~from~~ the federal government on reservations, such as the Dakota Sioux during the 1862 Sioux war, they were still unable to defeat the federal government due to their depleted manpower

and resources. This can be shown by the lack of Native American resistance to buffalo hunters such as Buffalo Bill or William Cody, who killed about 4,000 buffalo in just eighteen months, driven by both the profit of buffalo hunting ~~and~~ in the west - seen as a sport - and perhaps an aim to eliminate the ~~Native American~~ source for Native American culture, as they relied on the migrating buffalo for food and way of living; without buffalo, the Indians were deprived of resources. Furthermore, the Indians were unable to resist the ~~Indian~~ forceful government measures reinforced by powerful troops, such as the ~~shown~~ ^{trail} of Tears as a result of the Indian Removal Act in 1831, where the Native Americans were deprived of both their land and manpower as as many as 4000 died on the way to Oklahoma. Assimilationist policies such as boarding schools after the Medicine Lodge Treaty were even more difficult to resist as the Native Americans were separated from their children. Therefore, heavily deprived of natural resources and their manpower, the Native Americans completely failed in their resistance to the cultural encroachment of the federal government.

In conclusion, the Native Americans completely ~~failure~~ failed in their resistance to westward expansion, as supported by the

	federal government due to its pluring economic intrigues and ideological justification, the most important reason for their failene was the militarily superior federal government, whose efforts reid exacerbated the fall of Native Americans through aiding the broken political treaties and assimilation policies
*	The federal armies were sent as a result of the government's wish to expand westward.

Exemplar 2 is well-organised and well-informed. The candidate uses an effective structure to organise the material, picking out three important areas, thus avoiding a tendency to illustrative, narrative treatment, a common failing with a question such as this. The only shortcoming was a lack of the interim judgement, required for Level 6. Therefore, the response was given the top mark in Level 5.

Question 2 (a)

- 2 (a) Which of the following was of greatest significance in the course of the Civil War?
- (i) The battle of Shiloh
 - (ii) The battle of Antietam

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Candidates who had a firm grasp of the course of the Civil War handled this question well. Realising the fact that both battles were highly significant, but in different ways, made sense. Many of the candidates who knew the material well concluded that Antietam had the greater significance, because it led to the Emancipation Proclamation and hence to foreign powers' and particularly Great Britain's refusal to offer effective military support to the Confederacy. Shiloh was significant for the emergence of Grant as a Unionist commander and for the Confederates' loss of Johnston. Both battles were strategically significant: Antietam because it staved off the threat of a quick victory for the Confederacy and Shiloh because it opened up the possibility of a Unionist campaign in the West to break up the Confederacy. Candidates who did less well usually suffered from factual confusion with dates and personnel.

Exemplar 3

a)	<p>The Battle of Shiloh was the less significant of the two battles, however, that is not to say that it was not at all significant. The Battle of Shiloh in late 1862 had a significant impact on the Confederate army as Johnson, a well-known Confederate army general was killed as a result of the fighting, leading to a subsequent infection of a shot wound in his arm. The loss of an army general as competent as Johnson was likely to decrease the morale and overall strength of the Confederacy as significant leadership skills were lost. However, the battle of Shiloh showed the ability of the Confederacy and its army as they were able to push back the Union troops. However, the battle of Shiloh was not as significant as the battle of Antietam as, whilst it was a decisive victory, it did little to turn the tides of the war as gains on both the Union and Confederate sides were limited, changing little of the course of the war, making it less important.</p>
	<p>The Battle of Antietam, however, was both</p>

significant in reducing the strength of the confederacy and changing the original course of war to one of abolishing slavery. Antietam, a less decisive victory than that of Shiloh ~~was~~ ~~then~~ led to the retreat of the confederacy as Union battalions attacked from three advantageous points in Antietam Creek. Whilst a turning factor of the battle was that the battle had significant losses for both sides, giving it the reputation of the "bloodiest battle of the civil war", the battle was still most significant. The retreat of the confederacy was the victory needed by Lincoln to announce the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, turning the cause of the war from being one of reunifying the Union to one of abolishing slavery as "all slaves within Union territory" being freed. Therefore, with each Union advancement of land during the future battle slavery would gradually become abolished, making the battle significant in changing the course of the war. Antietam was also more important as it was the battle that secured no British support of the confederacy as a result of their defeat, which, if the confederacy had the support of the British, would be significant

	managed the situation of the Confederacy leading the outcome of the war.
	To conclude, Shiloh, whilst significantly impacting the Confederacy through a decisive victory and the loss of a respected general, had little impact on the course of the war. Therefore, the battle of Antietam is more important as it changed the Union cause of war and reduced the chance of potential foreign British support for the Confederacy.

Exemplar 3 provides some sound evaluation of both factors with good detail in some respects. For example, the loss of Johnston at Shiloh and the Emancipation Proclamation, consequent upon Antietam. Overall, the response is a little less confident of Shiloh, placing it, wrongly, late in 1862. The strengths of the response mean that it was given Level 5: 7 marks.

Exemplar 4

a	<p>The Battle of Antietam seems to be deemed as more significant in the course of the Civil war due to the shift in moral consciousness, whilst the Battle of Shiloh did have some significance it displayed the Union weakness rather than any major turning points.</p>
	<p>The Battle of Antietam is the most significant in the course of the Civil war as it was the deadliest battle that has occurred in and bloodiest American history. This was significant as it demonstrated the devastating nature of conflict in the course of the Civil war which damaged the morale of both Union and Confederate soldiers. The Battle of Antietam demonstrated that the shift from early Napoleonic style battles to more modern warfare - was laying the foundation for the use of total warfare under Grant in the Wilderness Campaign. Moreover, the Battle of Antietam had more significance as it led to the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln in 1863 which had shifted the war from preserving Union secession to a warfare based on the abolition of slaves. It proved to be a turning point in the war as it strengthened and lengthened the morale amongst Union soldiers as it engaged</p>


their moral consciousness. However, the Battle of Antietam had only seen the embryonic stages of total warfare and war of attrition as it only gained a foothold under Grant in the Wilderness Campaign - undermining its significance. However, in contrast to the Restored States - in the confederacy, the Battle of Antietam had bound Unionists together toward aim of abolition.

On the other hand, the Battle of Shiloh did play a considerable role in the course of the Civil War as it was one of the only earliest battles in the Civil War that demonstrated the prospect of a long-term conflict. Despite initial Confederate success by a surprise attack on the Union, the Confederates had reinforced the army to counter the confederates. This was crucial as it demonstrated the difficulty amongst the South to fight an offensive war; the shift to a defensive war might have weakened morale amongst the confederates as early victory may have seemed less attainable - damaging the long-term effect of the confederates. On the other hand, moreover, it seemed to undermine its success in the Bull Run at Manassas, weakening its significance of early victory as it may have been viewed as an anomaly.

In conclusion, Battle of Antietam was more significant as it shifted the aim of the war from ~~the~~ preserving Union succession to a moral compass of ~~the~~ abolition of slavery. Whilst the Battle of Shiloh did have some impact on the long-term impact on the North as well as an attack on the North, it seemed to undermine early successes that had drawn morale of the Confederates.

Exemplar 4 is mostly competent but a little more uneven with less detail on Shiloh. It was given Level 4: 6 marks.

Assessment for learning



The sequence of battles in the Civil War:
Candidates who take this unit have to be prepared to assess, in basic detail, all of the leading battles and make sure that they have these battles in the right order, which means learning dates, names of generals and outcomes.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'Differences in their economic systems were the main cause of tension between the North and South in the period from 1850 to 1861.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

This was an attractive question for candidates who were confident about the causes of the Civil War. An important consideration for many was the relationship between 'economic systems' in the question and slavery. Some considered slavery as a separate cultural issue, most considered it as a defining characteristic of the economic system of the South. As well as economic issues and slavery, popular rival factors were: political developments from 1850, culminating in the election of Lincoln, and associated considerations such as the impact of the Fugitive Slave Act, Kansas-Nebraska and abolitionism.

Exemplar 5

b)	Differences in the Northern and Southern economic system undoubtedly caused sectional tensions to some extent, however, it was not the most important factor.
	The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and the 1860s elections were other significant factors, with Kansas-Nebraska increasing Northern hatred of the South and the 1860 election increasing Southern hatred of the North.
	The differences in economic systems, whilst not the most important factor causing sectional tensions, was still significant. The

southern economy relied mainly on the growing and farming of crops such as cotton as a result of the south-western fertility of the soil. These plantations on which the south relied, also increased their dependence on slave labour, which in the north, seemed to be a problem as white Americans ~~feared~~ and their economies became increasingly dependent on slaves. ~~Thus~~ the north, on the other hand, relied on industrial work with 10 times more industrial output than the south. The north, therefore, had more successful economic output and activity than the north with a more industrialised economy, potentially creating discontent in the south, increasing tensions. ~~Therefore~~ However, whilst the issue around slavery and its prevalence in the north was initiated by economic differences, potentially increasing tensions with subsequent differing opinions, economic differences were not the most important reason for sectional tensions as there was little evidence for said tensions such as the slave power conspiracy or southern "fire-eaters" which were significantly affected by the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the 1860 elections.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, significantly increased sectional tensions as the Northern idea of slave power conspiracy was supported by the Act of the federal government. Kansas and Nebraska joined the Union under the idea of popular sovereignty, allowing free settlers to decide if the states will be slave or free states. Whilst it was thought that Nebraska was unlikely to become a slave state as a result of poor growing climates, the clear undoing of the Missouri Compromise angered the North as the idea of slave power conspiracy in the South circulated, increasing the hatred of the South in the North, significantly increasing sectional tensions. Whilst the act was significant in increasing the hatred of the South in the North, it was not as significant as the 1860 elections in increasing sectional tensions as, unlike the elections, the Act did little to anger the South.

The 1860 elections for presidency were the most significant cause of tension between the North and the South. The South, already ~~sceptical~~^{unsure} of the Republican party as a result of the potential Republican

frustration of the anti-slavery John Brown raid, were significantly engaged by Lincoln's victory in the 1860 elections and saw it as one ~~step~~ ^{step} closer to the abolishment of slavery, despite this not being the intention of Lincoln at all. This Southern anger as a result of Lincoln's election was so significant that it led to the secession of multiple states from the Union, the first being that of South Carolina in 1860, and the creation of the Confederacy in 1861. The secession of Southern states, as a result of Southern anger of Lincoln's election, therefore suggests that the elections incalculated sectional tensions to such an extent that the South and North could not remain united, suggesting it to be the most important cause of tension between the North and the South.

To conclude, whilst differing economic systems most certainly incalculated differing opinions on slavery and economic success, potentially inhibiting sectional tensions, it was little to surmount these tensions and, therefore, was not the most important factor. ~~The~~ The Kansas-

Nebraska Act was significant in increasing tensions ~~as~~ as Northerners became increasingly hostile toward southern slavery ideologies, however the 1850 elections, with Republican victory, was the most significant. With southern half of the supposed "anti-slavery" Republicans, the election resulted in such an increase of sectional tension, that the ~~North~~ South seceded from the union in 1861, suggesting it the most important cause for hatred between the North and South as they were not united.

Exemplar 5 is a well-explained, structured response that covers most of the major issues effectively, building consideration of slavery into its discussion of economic systems. Knowledge and understanding were good and it was given Level 5: 15 marks.

Exemplar 6

b	<p>The differences in their economic system was was detrimental detrimental in the cause of tension between the North and South due to the issue of Southern agriculturalism vs Northern industrialisation. However, the other factors such as the Election of Lincoln, ^{westward expansion} and Issue of Slavery was more significant ^{more importantly} as it undermined all was causes of tension between North and the South.</p>
	<p>The differences of economic systems did play a considerable role in causes of tensions due to conflict being undermined by Northern industrialisation and Southern Agriculturalism. The South's over-reliance on cotton industries played a pivotal role in tensions as they aimed to protect their cotton material interests through the expansion of slavery in the west. The Ostend Manifesto was an attempt to purchase Cuba for \$150 million that seemed to aggravate tensions as it provided a prospect of slavery entering the west which angered the Northerners who placed an economic emphasis on the promotion of immigration rather than cotton industries for the sake of economic prosperity. Moreover, the instilled belief in cotton industries amongst the South was pivotal as it led to fears of Northern hostility towards slavery. The attack by John Brown</p>

on Harper's ferry seemed to prove Northern charity towards economics of cotton industries in the South, whilst in the North John was viewed as a "martyr" in the issue of slavery, ~~and~~ ~~promoting~~ ~~economics~~ ~~in~~ highlighting the South's insistence on maintaining that revenue of cotton industries despite Northern opposition. On the other hand, economic differences played a limited role as the issue of slavery had undermined economic differences, as issues were more consistent on slavery rather than economics.

The election of Abraham Lincoln proved played a more significant cause in an exceptionalist tenor as there were fears of abolitionism amongst the South. The Lincoln - Douglas Debate was a series of debates whereby Douglas had seemed to portray Lincoln as an abolitionist and anti-slavery which led to fears amongst the Southerners in the morale of the 1860 election whereby he was elected on a low popular vote. Furthermore, despite Lincoln never advocate for the abolition of slavery, he had a clear stance of preventing its expansion in the North as it led to fears amongst Southerners that Lincoln would intervene in the South and abolish slavery - there was a clear political divide which proved detrimental to Douglas's failure in the election.

However, The election of Lincoln ^{in 1860} could be deemed as a turning point as within 4 days, South Carolina had unanimously voted to ~~leave~~ secede from the Union enhancing the legitimacy of the argument as it seemed to epitomise fear amongst the South. On the other hand, the election of Lincoln is ultimately ~~issues~~ undermined by the issue of slavery as the obsession from the South in protecting ~~and~~ "conspiracy" of moral interests provides a consistent argument for tensions between 1850 and 1861.

The issue of slavery was the main cause of tensions between the North and the South due to the prospect of westward expansion, ~~which~~ The 1850 compromise was an attempt by Taylor to enter California and New Mexico as states following the Mexican war, this had aggravated tensions as it meant that no new slave states were admitted, forcing the federal government to "appease" the South and attempt to manage tensions. It was significant as it led to the Fugitive Slave Act 1850 that ensured stronger slave trading and opened up the opportunity for Southerners to reclaim their property in the North. This had aggravated Northerners as it meant Southerners intervened with the Northerners Moral compass

which had been developing following Uncle Tom's Cabin which gained sympathisers. The Act also undermined Texas and sovereignty within the North that fuelled Northern hostility. Moreover, the issue of slavery was also evident through the Kansas-Nebraska Bill which optimised the political divide between the North and the South. Attempts by Douglas to build a transcontinental railway had led to the repeal of the 1820 compromise as it led to the introduction of popular sovereignty, this had opened up the prospect of slavery expanding to past the Mason-Dixon line, antagonising Northerners who aimed to prevent its expansion. The political divide was portrayed as 90% of Northerners voted against it whilst 54% Southerners voted for it, it demonstrated the idea that the Federal government was currying up to the idea of slavery which fuelled a slave power conspiracy among of the North. The issue had not only lines converges the Democrats into North and South leading to "Bleeding Kansas" which opened up the prospect of violence and seemed to represent an "mini-civil war" between the North and the South regarding the issue of slavery. Despite, some attempt at compromise ex 1850 compromise, these events were seen as "circumstances" in attempt to prevent conflict due to the inevitable use of force.

between North and the South regarding slavery.

In conclusion, the issue of slavery had undermined all hopes of approaching and establishing itself as the main cause of tensions or economic differences of industrialisation vs agrarianism as the South was linked to the South's reliance on cotton industries as the main revenue which was undermined by the use of slaves. Whilst the leadership of Lincoln best epitomised tensions between the North and the South regarding fears of slavery being abolished in the South. The issue of slavery was the most significant as it explained political, moral and economic divides between the North and the South.

Exemplar 6 treats slavery as separate from 'economic systems', not entirely successfully but does have some accurate knowledge and a basic sense of structure. There is some uncertainty about Lincoln's position on slavery, so this response was given Level 4: 11 marks.

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