

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y215/01 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.

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Paper Y215/01 series overview

Y215/01 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, 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.

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 had the greater impact on Italy?
- (i) The revolutions of 1848–1849 in Piedmont
 - (ii) The revolutions of 1848–1849 in Naples

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

[10]

Question 1 was the most popular question. Good responses had detailed knowledge under control. However, for the majority of responses, there were problems when knowledge of (i) revolutions in Piedmont and, especially (ii) revolutions in Naples was imprecise. Most recognised the importance of the Statuto in Piedmont and the significance of the Piedmontese mounting a military challenge to the Austrians and attracting support from other parts of Italy, even if the war ended in defeat. Several candidates appreciated how this set a precedent for Piedmont's role in the 1850s and, particularly, the realisation that foreign military support was essential to defeat the Austrians. Only the best responses found their way through the tangle of events in Naples, appreciating the role of Sicily and that, hence, there were in effect two revolutions in Naples, one easily suppressed, the other only put down with difficulty.

Misconception



Naples and Sicily

Many candidates did not appreciate the Sicilian dimension of the Neapolitan monarchy, that the Italian revolutions of 1848 began in Sicily and that the Sicilian revolution was much harder for Ferdinand, King of Naples, to suppress. In terms of future impact, Garibaldi chose Sicily in 1860 for its revolutionary potential.

Exemplar 1

a)	<p>The revolutions of 1848 and 1849, across the Italian peninsula, signified a monumental shift in the development of Italian nationalism and, consequently, a major advancement in the progression of the Risorgimento, and ^{and} unification movement. Yet, whilst the revolutions in areas such as Naples produced a great impact on Italy, it is undoubtable that the events in Piedmont had a more profound effect.</p>
	<p>Nevertheless, the revolutionary activity across the Kingdom of Sicily during 1848 and 1849 was not insubstantial. Following a peasant's revolt in Palermo, King Ferdinand, who had already promised reform, bombed the city, earning him the nickname 'King Bomba'. This produced a widespread reaction across Naples, highlighting the importance of the revolution as a strong of ^{and} opposition towards the King was ignited. The revolutionaries were able to take over Naples and form a Provisional Government, exhibiting the effective nature of the uprising, a factor that cannot be overlooked when assessing its impact on Italy as a whole. However, whilst the revolutions were influential in proving that leaders such as King Ferdinand could be overthrown, his reaction serves as an evident representation of its flaws. As Ferdinand brutally suppressed the revolutionary activity ^{activity} with his Neapolitan army, subsequently crushing the Provisional Government, the overall impact of the events in Naples during 1848-49 was less profound.</p>
	<p>On the other hand, while no leaders were effectively overthrown in Piedmont, the revolutions there generated a far more substantial effect. Not only did the events provoke the '1st War of Italian Independence', they also led to King Charles Albert granting the 'Statute'. This was a constitution published by Albert in 1848 in response to the growing revolutionary activity, and would be eventually used as the first constitution for the Kingdom of Italy in the 1860s. Moreover, the Statute influenced a shift in the progression of the Risorgimento,</p>

~~highlighting~~ illustrating its monumental impact on Italy, leading to as many as 200,000 people moving to Piedmont, becoming the centre of liberalism across the peninsula and, therefore, the unification movement. Furthermore, the aforementioned '1st War of Italian Independence' was also a result of 1848-49's revolutions, with Charles Albert uniting the Piedmontese army with Lombardy-Venetia to fight Austria. Despite Albert's indecisiveness and insistence that volunteers from other states swear allegiance to Piedmont, as well as the overall defeat in the war, with the battles of Custoza and Novara, this was still extremely impactful as Anti-Austrian sentiment increased drastically across Italy.

Exemplar 1 shows a high degree of accuracy and relevance, analysing both factors convincingly, if a little light on Sicily in (ii), and was given Level 6: 9 marks.

Exemplar 2

<p>The 1848-9 revolutions in Naples were mainly driven by the desire for representative democracy, as outlined by their demands for a bicameral parliament. Whilst they were initially successful, with King Ferdinand agreeing to a parliament with limited power, it soon failed as he went back on his promise and implemented absolute power and a police state. It had no great effect on Italy as not only did the outcome ^{ed} show more of the same thing that had happened in past revolutions as it was led by the intelligencia and ultimately fell when they were outgunned by Ferdinand's forces. The same outcome did eventually happen in the 1848-9 revolutions in Piedmont however the events during it were more significant.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Revolutions in Piedmont</p> <p>The 1848-9th had the greater impact on Italy as it showed that there could be a successful</p>

<p>war against the Austrians, if only short-lived. King Charles-Albert led Piedmont, Lombard and Venetia in a fight large-scale fight against the Austrians (however it was aided) which resulted in them being temporarily removed. Whilst the situation in Austria helped Piedmont and their forces (with the resignation of Metternich and the abdication of Emperor Ferdinand due to the revolution in Austria), this revolution showed that the states could come</p>
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together and ~~kick out~~ potentially force the Austrians out for good. Ultimately, the revolution was defeated when the Austrians beat them at the ~~the~~ 1st Battle of Custoza and Battle of Novara but it demonstrated Unity.

Ultimately, the 1848-9 Revolution in Piedmont had the greater impact on Italy as it demonstrated that ~~the~~ regions could come together and force out the Austrians. The 1848-9 Revolution in Naples only showed that there was still a lack of unity and that rebels were ill-equipped to battle against entire armies, which would be needed in the future.

Exemplar 2 is also a focused response but is missing key elements such as the Sicilian component of (ii) and the Statuto in (i). Hence it was seen as uneven and given Level 4: 6 marks.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* 'Napoleonic rule was the most important factor in laying the foundations of unity in Italy in the period from 1789 to 1847.' How far do you agree? [20]

Most candidates who took this question adopted the sensible approach of assessing Napoleonic rule and comparing its impact to other factors in the period from 1789 to 1847. Common alternative factors were, the French Revolution, the restored monarchies, revolutions and nationalist movements in the 1815-47 period. Better responses appreciated the example set by the Napoleonic period in terms of reform and a diminished role for the Catholic church, but also realised that most of this was short-lived. More positive appreciation could be given to the Carbonari, Mazzini and other strands of national thought in the 1840s. Because of the breadth of material that could be employed, a wide variety of approaches was possible. Weaker responses did not get much beyond the Napoleonic period and were confused about many details.

Exemplar 3

<p><u>b)</u></p>	<p>Napoleonic rule over Italy may have not lasted long, yet its effects in producing the foundations of unity across the peninsula are undeniable. Resultantly, many would attribute the period as the most significant, in regards to to the Risorgimento, to before 1847, due to the first signs of Italian nationalism emerging. Yet, not only did the revolutions of 1830 to 31 have a comparatively impactful nature, the the revolutions of 1820 to 21 exhibited the first uprisings against the reactionary leaders from the Vienna settlement and, therefore, had a great influence and long great influence. However the lack of mass support, ununited leadership and cooperation illustrates how, when it comes to laying the foundations of unity, Napoleonic rule was ^{was} the most crucial factor.</p>
	<p>Under Napoleon, who had conquered much of the Italian peninsula at the turn of the 19th 19th century, Italy was effectively 'unified' for the first time, divided into 3 states in comparison to the 13 states during the post-Napoleonic 'reaction' period. The land was split into the French Empire, Kingdom of Naples and Kingdom of Italy. Despite this, there was little similarity, even</p>

within the separate areas, due to the many dialects and cultures. Nevertheless, Napoleonic rule brought improvements to infrastructure as well as a new civil code, the Code Napoleon. This put more emphasis on equality, with the ideas of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' of the French Revolution spreading across the Italian peninsula. This produced a greater sense of unity when the reactionaries, mostly Austrian leaders, were replaced, with the Napoleonic society dismantled, along with much of its infrastructure, leading to increased anti-Austrian sentiment. Yet, even during Napoleonic rule itself, many felt angry in their dissatisfaction towards the regime, especially regarding the military obligation, suggested by the fact that, whilst 27,000 Italians fought in Russia during 1812, only 18,000 returned. This combination, both through the modernised societies and infrastructure under Napoleon, as well as the simultaneous opposition to his rule, a sense of unity was growing.

On the other hand, the argument could be made that, due to the significant post-Napoleonic 'reaction', there was a reversal of any unity that had emerged during the period. In this way, one could view the revolutions of 1820 and 21 to be the first establishment of unity's foundations. For instance, in Piedmont, the intense hatred for reactionary King Victor Emmanuel I, caused revolutionaries to overthrow him and form a Provisional Government in Alessandria. Moreover, in the Kingdom of Sicily, specifically Naples, the role of the Carbonari, joining a rebellion led by a priest and enabling a rapid escalation of revolution, in which General Pepe took charge and helped to force King Ferdinand to limit his power, was ~~not~~ monumental. In 1820 to 21, although both revolutions were eventually met with brutal suppression and, in the most part, a restoration of order, unity became more realistic. Despite this, secret societies like the Carbonari (which had 60,000

members at its height) signified the growth of nationalism and ideas of Italian unity, the events of 1820 to 21 exhibited a lack of cooperation, as well as mass support or ~~universal~~ ^{no} universal leadership, therefore being a less substantial period in the growth of unity.

Some would, however, attribute the later revolutions of 1830 to 31 as a more influential period in laying the foundations of the Risorgimento. Not only did the revolution in Modena exhibit the spread of the Carbonari's ideas, with Misisi and Menotti planning to use Duke Francis in an ~~attempted~~ attempted uprising against the Austrians, but, although the pair were arrested (essentially betrayed by Duke Francis), the rebellion went ahead and a Provisional Government was formed. This suggests that revolutionary atmospheres were very volatile during the 1830s, with uprisings capable of escalating rapidly and producing 'domino effects' across the peninsula; leading to greater unity between states. Yet, once again, the lack of cooperation between revolutionaries reduces the impact of 1830-31's events. Furthermore, Modena's Provisional Government had sought unity with the 'Government of the Italian Provinces' in Bologna (formed during revolution in the Papal States), but was denied. Consequently, the revolutions of 1830 and 1831, whilst arguably proving that unity would be necessary in future uprisings, ~~could~~ can't be considered as the most important factor in generating the foundations of unity.

Ultimately, as the revolutions of 1820 to 21 also prove, the lack of universal leadership, mass support and cooperation during 1830 and 1831 represents its less substantial role in laying the foundations of Italian unity. Whilst both sets of revolutions in the 1820s and 30s helped spread ideas of anti-Austrian sentiment (consequently aiding the development of the Risorgimento in the process), the states across the Italian peninsula remained mostly divided. In comparison, the period of Napoleon

rule had seen Italy 'unified' for the first time, both in a geographical manner, separated into just 3 states, and a societal manner, with people unified ~~in the~~ by the Code Napoleon's promotion of equality and, on the other hand, their onerous military obligations they had. Overall, as the Napoleonic rule brought together many different dialects and cultures under one leader, the foundations of unity began to emerge ~~there~~. Therefore, there is no doubt that it is the most important factor.

Exemplar 3 is sharply focused on the question, well informed and includes some interim judgement; hence, it was given Level 6: 17 marks.

Exemplar 4

B	<p>French rule under Napoleon was by far the most important factor in laying the foundations of Unity in Italy in 184 1789-1847. This was due to him introducing anti-clericalism into the Nationalist viewpoint, which many secret societies adopted the idea of and could especially be seen in the 1820-21 revolution in Piedmont and 1830-31 revolution in the Papal States ^{and Bologna}, which also links to him reducing trade barriers and the Code Napoleon. However, one could also argue that his rule damaged the ^{subsequent} Unity movement as he mainly helped the middle class and not the poor, which meant future revolutions did not have popular support.</p>
	<p>The anti-clericalism was an introduced by Napoleon in when he stripped the Pope of all real power ^{in 1798} lingered throughout the 18th until the 1847 date (although it can also be seen in 1870 when Pope Pius IX is stripped of his power). One can see this during the 1820-21 revolution in Piedmont, where the Intelligencia were angered by increasing Church censorship censorship of books and newspapers (implemented by king Victor Emmanuel). However, the role of anti-clericalism during Napoleon's rule also leads to the most damaging legacy of his rule, it also had a negative outcome at the time when in 1799 Cardinal Ruffio led a disparate group who slaughtered 7000 Jacobins. The lack of mass support for Nationalism and</p>

Unification by the peasantry ~~that~~ was a ~~lego~~ arguably the most important legacy left by Napoleon's rule. During his reign he gave away land to already wealthy barons and merchants (such as the Cavour Family), instead of ~~the~~ using the resources to help the poor. His introduction of a Grist Tax in the Code Napoleon increased poverty and by stripping the Church's power it meant it could no longer provide healthcare or food to the poor and instead they would now have to go to state run workhouses. This legacy would effect all the Revolutions (aside from Sicily) as they would be led by the middle class intelligencia, who did not care about what the peasantry wanted (apart from the small *societa dei Raggi* who were patriots disillusioned by Napoleon's policies), ~~then~~ and when the Revolutions failed the returning Monarchs would be welcomed back by cheering peasant crowds. Thus, this was the most important factor within Napoleon's rule that ~~imposed~~ was a foundation for the Italian Unity campaign.

What's more, another important impact of Napoleon's rule on the foundation of unity in Italy was the unification of states and the easing of trade laws. This is demonstrated in 1796 when Napoleon created the Cisalpine Republic in the North, and the eventual Kingdom

of Italy in 1805. We can see the impact of this in the 1830-31 revolution in the Papal States, whereby as soon as they overthrew the pope ~~and~~ they formed the 'Government of Italian provinces' along with Modena & Parma (capital was in Bologna). It can also be seen during Napoleon's rule, when in 1801 central Duchies tried to break away and form their own kingdom of Etruria. The Code Napoleon was part of the heavy impact this move had as it simplified the tax laws and made trade across ~~the~~ regions easier, thus influencing more regular people.

Exemplar 4 is a narrow, relatively brief response, but shows good knowledge and understanding of the Napoleonic period in Italy. Its weakness is its failure to go forward to 1847 in any depth, although it does refer glancingly to the revolutions of 1820-1 and 1830-1. This was given Level 4: 12 marks.

Question 2 (a)

- 2 (a) Which of the following contributed most towards the establishment of a new Kingdom of Italy 1850–1861?
- (i) Cavour's actions outside Italy
 - (ii) Cavour's actions within Italy

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

[10]

Providing responses were clear about what constituted 'Italy,' useful content was easy to assess. For (i) the obvious points were Piedmont's involvement in the Crimean War and the pact at Plombières and for (ii) Cavour's domestic reforms in the 1850s and his dealings with Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel in 1860-61.

Exemplar 5

a	<p>Cavour's actions outside Italy were integral to the establishment of a new Kingdom of Italy from 1850 1850-61. Cavour was head of Piedmont and along with Victor Emmanuel II, during the period of the Crimean war, where for Piedmont, Britain and France defeated Russia. This is was significant as he was able to earn a spot at the peace conference in Paris, where he could negotiate on equal terms with the great powers and and allowed him to improve Piedmont's position within the world. From here, he would create crucially for form a friendship with Napoleon III, who invited him to the meeting at Plombières in 1856. Here, Napoleon III and Cavour devised a plan for what an Austria-free Italy would look like and how to ^{get} rid of Austria from Italy. They devised that they would need an army of 300,000 with Napoleon providing 2/3 of the required number and Cavour along with other states providing the other 1/3. Cavour was then able to manoeuvre Austria into declaring war,</p>
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by mobilising and refusing to de-mobilise the army. During the War of 1859, ~~Austrians~~^{France} and Piedmont were finally able to defeat Austria, ridding Italy of Austrian influence which was a vital step towards the establishment of the king of Italy.

Carour was significant in progressing Piedmont to the status they needed to drive out Austrian influence. ~~Carour~~ Following his appointment as prime minister in 1852, Carour developed import and export links, advanced technology and expanded trade to nations like Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal. In addition to this,

Carour was able to ~~ex~~ improve the railway network of Piedmont, stretching over 850 ~~km~~ km, near to the rest of Italy's 980 km. This was significant as it made Italy more powerful and semi-industrialised, which allowed them to be seen as a useful ally to Britain and France.

To conclude, I believe Carour's actions outside Italy contributed most as these efforts benefitted all Italian states, whereas his improvements in Italy were confined to Piedmont ~~alone~~ alone and did not benefit Italy as a whole.

Exemplar 5 offers sound coverage of both factors and reaches a brief, substantiated judgement, hence it was given Level 5: 8 marks.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'The treatment of the Mezzogiorno was the greatest failure of Italy during the period from 1861 to 1896.' How far do you agree? [20]

A popular, and successful, approach was to range consideration of the Mezzogiorno against the other main features of the Italian state in this period, natural choices being foreign affairs, the functioning of the political system and relations with the Catholic church. In assessing the Mezzogiorno, most candidates recognised the significance of the Northern, Piedmontese domination of the Italian state, the Brigands' War, economic impositions and disparities and the significant degree of emigration. Some candidates recognised that there was some success in removing the worst of the burdens on the South as the period unfolded. Better responses also appreciated the success of Italy in foreign affairs, as she acquired vital territories up to 1870 and then became a player in great power diplomacy later. The calamity of Adowa was significant, nonetheless. The papacy's antagonistic relationship with the new Italian state was also seen as significant, as was the endemic corruption in the parliamentary system.

Exemplar 6

b	<p>The Mezzogiorno were heavily neglected and oppressed within Italy following the creation of the Kingdom of Italy and its theoretical unification in 1861 (excluding Venetia and Rome). Italy faced failures in colonial expansions to achieve their foreign policy aims and also failed to an extent to improve ^{relations} social between the Church and the state. Circumstances for Italian women in particular. However, there are less significant failures in comparison to the treatment of the Mezzogiorno in Italy, as this led to clashes in identity and culminated in Civil War within Italy.</p>
	<p>The Mezzogiorno refers to the South of Italy and during the period from 1861 to 1896, the Southerners within Italy were heavily mistreated. The creation of the Kingdom of Italy was essentially Piedmontisation, with Victor Emmanuel II becoming the first King of Italy and enforcing the legal codes of Piedmont upon all other Italian states. In addition to this, the South were neglected & strained financially, ^{given} given their majority of the distribution of wealth was mainly in the</p>

North, where it was prosperous and semi-industrialised, as opposed to the poor, agriculturally-based and 'backwards' South, thus creating an economic North/South divide. ~~The~~ ~~Reforms~~ were ~~just~~. On top of this, the North was able to benefit from political changes, with many government ~~pos~~ and positions being held by the North and Piedmontese citizens in particular, whilst the reforms such as increased tax and placing Piedmont's debt upon the whole nation particularly affected the South and the peasants, causing their standards of living to fall. This was a significant failure for Italy as the South was essentially left ~~for~~ in poverty, with higher costs of

living, falling living standards and a lack of political opportunities for the Southerners. This caused peasants to turn to the life of bandits, where they looted and stole to survive and culminated in the Brigands' War from 1861-65. Instead of seeking to support the South, the government of the ~~north~~ became embroiled in a civil war with the South and carried out massacres of the South, led by general Negri. This highlighted social divisions within Italy and portrayed there was no internal unity despite geographical unification, hence why this was Italy's greatest failure.

~~The~~ Following the Triple Alliance in 1882, with Austria-Hungary and Prussia, Crispi set his sights on ~~the~~ the development of a colony within Africa. Initially, ~~he~~ Crispi believed that Italians did not feel united and that by creating a foreign policy aim as such, this would unite ~~the~~ Italians to support Italy's strive towards great power status. Crispi was initially successful, acquiring both Eritrea and

Somali land but his success ended after ~~his~~ aiming to acquire Ethiopia. ~~The~~ Crispi believed Italy would easily overcome Ethiopia but the opposite occurred, being heavily defeated by the Ethiopians, particularly in the battle of Adowa, where 7000 Italian troops were killed and 3000 more taken prisoner by the Ethiopian king and his forces. This highlighted a military and political failure ^{for} Italy, as their forces were ~~defeated~~ overwhelmingly and Crispi ~~was~~ chose to resign immediately following his failure for his foreign policy aims and growing discontent from the Italian public.

The relations between the Church and the state grew very sour following the creation of Italy, as Pope Pius IX remained against the creation of Italy and refused to support the Kingdom. In 1864, the Pope released the 'Syllabus of Errors', condemning, progress, liberalism and ~~the~~ modern civilisation. This was a major let down for the Kingdom of Italy, as they had hoped for unity between the state and the Church. Later in 1866, Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, wrote to the Pope, asking that he relinquish his temporal power ~~but~~ ^{as} Rome could be acquired and become the Capital city of Italy and that his spiritual power would remain, with the Pope as the head of the Church which would be protected by the Italian, but the Pope once again refused. Once, Rome had finally been acquired, the Pope released the 'Doctrine of Papal Infallibility' stating as the supreme leader of the Church, his matters on morals and faith could not be challenged. He also tightened his grip on spiritual power further, by excommunicating Victor Emmanuel and stating that anyone who worked for the secular state or engaged in Italian politics would also be ~~excommunicated~~ excommunicated. This

was a significant failure for Italy as this caused ~~idea~~ an identity crisis for those stuck between supporting the state and supporting the Church, meaning full support for Italy could not be established.

To conclude, I believe that the treatment of the Mezzogiorno was the greatest failure of Italy as the aim of colonial expansion ~~of~~ only signified foreign policy failure and wasn't majorly significant and whilst ~~the~~ relations with the church and the state was a significant failure, they are inferior in comparison to how the treatment of the South led to economic and social turmoil and culminated in a civil war, highlighting disunity in Italy.

Exemplar 6 picks two contrasting factors – foreign affairs and relations with the papacy – to consider alongside the Mezzogiorno and shows good engagement throughout, without achieving the level of development or detailed discussion of all three that would put in in the higher reaches of Level 5 or Level 6. Hence, this response was given Level 5:14 marks.

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