

PAPER II

A STUDENTS GUIDE

When answering the questions on Paper II the following can be used as a rough guide. Remember you will need to adapt these ideas to different types of question and various sources. You should always read the whole paper first - it should take about 10 mins. and attempt to remember as much as you can about the sources presented.

A high quality answer has **got to have** specific details quoted from the source, you have to comment about that detail in relation to the question and show contextual knowledge. Ie that you know what is going on in the country at the time by bringing in your own knowledge of the period. You must then make a **judgement** about the source is it reliable? Is it biased? Do you trust it? If so why? If not why not?. You have to consider who made the source and what are they up to? Are they trying to get you to believe something? Are they telling the whole truth or do they have a motive?

Remember:

CONTENT – Quote it

COMMENT – On the content

CONTEXT –Relate it to whats going in using your own knowledge

JUDGEMENT – Tell me what you think of the source, make a judgement.

Reliability:-

When considering the reliability of any source you will need to understand and assess each of the following:-

Bias – Is the author telling the whole truth or just from his/her point of view

Origins - when, where, by whom etc. was the source produced;

Type - primary or secondary; written or non written;

Content - what does the source actually say of show;

Selection - is there any evidence of anything being deliberately included or left out;

Tone - not just what the source says, but how it says it;

Style - not just what a source shows, but how it shows it;

Motive - was there a particular reason why this source was produced;

Audience - was the source produced for a particular person or group of people.

Remember that just because a source is biased does not mean it is unreliable. All sources are reliable so, even if the question gives you a topic, you should always try to explain "*Reliable for what?*".

Usefulness:-

Usefulness and reliability are **NOT** the same thing. A source can be useful but not reliable, reliable but of little or no use. You need to assess the degree of usefulness but again, the question to ask, even if no topic is given is "*Useful for what?*". *What does the source actually show us? What doesn't it show us?*

Similarities and Differences:-

When answering questions that ask you to compare sources in this way always look for both similarities and differences. When you have done this try to explain why sources that are about the same thing agree and/or disagree on certain aspects of the topic. This may be because of simple things such as time or place, but remember that different types of sources are designed to give different information and the motivation or audience may well be influencing what is included. So it depends what the author is up to what is their motive. Always say why sources are different and always quote from the source to back yourself up. Also try to find anything they agree on and again quote it to back yourself up.

Does a source show or prove:-

If asked such a question remember that no single source can be assumed to prove anything. Assess to what extent the source might prove and then suggest what other evidence might be needed to support it.

Others:-

Some other things you might find helpful:-

1. *Always quote the source-support your answer with details from the source. Back up your points with evidence.*
2. *If you need to prove a point then cross reference to other sources and quote from them to use your point. Hint the question will say using your own knowledge **and the sources** to answer the question.*
3. *Always look for bias in the sources*
4. *Question six will always ask for a judgement. For example “ do the sources in this paper suggest that apples are yummy?” To answer that you need to quote all the sources. Some will say they are some will say they aren’t. Literally say source A suggests apples are yummy because it says....blah bla blah, while source B suggests they aren’t yummy **because it says** blah blah blah. At the end of doing this make a judgement. Most of the sources suggest that apples are.....(whatever). But also say that the most trustworthy sources tell you that apples are yummy/not yummy and explain why they are more trustworthy or believable. So you say that some evidence says yes.....some says no.but you have decided that they are.....*
5. *Always consider the big message of the source what is it actually saying? And why is it saying it?*

*Remember its not as hard as some people would have you believe **and you can do it!***