



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel
In GCE History (8HI0/2D)
Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 2: Depth study

Option 2D.1: The unification of Italy, c1830–70

Option 2D.2: The unification of Germany,
c1840–71

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Generic Level Descriptors

Section A: Questions 1a / 2a

Target: AO2: Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within its historical context.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1–2	• Demonstrates surface level comprehension of the source material without analysis, selecting some material relevant to the question, but in the form of direct quotations or paraphrases. • Some relevant contextual knowledge is included, with limited linkage to the source material. • Evaluation of the source material is assertive with little if any substantiation. Concepts of utility may be addressed, but by making stereotypical judgements.
2	3–5	• Demonstrates some understanding of the source material and attempts analysis by selecting and summarising information and making undeveloped inferences relevant to the question. • Contextual knowledge is added to information from the source material to expand or confirm matters of detail. • Evaluation of the source material is related to the specified enquiry and with some substantiation for assertions of value. The concept of utility is addressed mainly by noting aspects of source provenance and may be based on questionable assumptions.
3	6–8	• Demonstrates understanding of the source material and shows some analysis by selecting key points relevant to the question, explaining their meaning and selecting material to support valid inferences. • Knowledge of the historical context is deployed to explain or support inferences, as well as to expand or confirm matters of detail. • Evaluation of the source material is related to the specified enquiry and based on valid criteria although justification is not fully substantiated. Explanation of utility takes into account relevant considerations such as nature or purpose of the source material or the position of the author.

Section A: Questions 1b/2b

Target: AO2: Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within its historical context.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1–2	• Demonstrates surface level comprehension of the source material without analysis, selecting some material relevant to the question, but in the form of direct quotations or paraphrases. • Some relevant contextual knowledge is included, with limited linkage to the source material. • Evaluation of the source material is assertive with little or no supporting evidence. Concept of reliability may be addressed, but by making stereotypical judgements.
2	3–5	• Demonstrates some understanding of the source material and attempts analysis, by selecting and summarising information and making undeveloped inferences relevant to the question. • Contextual knowledge is added to information from the source material to expand, confirm or challenge matters of detail. • Evaluation of the source material is related to the specified enquiry but with limited support for judgement. Concept of reliability is addressed mainly by noting aspects of source provenance and judgements may be based on questionable assumptions.
3	6–9	• Demonstrates understanding of the source material and shows some analysis by selecting key points relevant to the question, explaining their meaning and selecting material to support valid inferences. • Deploys knowledge of the historical context to explain or support inferences as well as to expand, confirm or challenge matters of detail. • Evaluation of the source material is related to the specified enquiry and explanation of weight takes into account relevant considerations such as nature or purpose of the source material or the position of the author. Judgements are based on valid criteria, with some justification.
4	10–12	• Analyses the source material, interrogating the evidence to make reasoned inferences and to show a range of ways the material can be used, for example by distinguishing between information and claim or opinion. • Deploys knowledge of the historical context to illuminate and/or discuss the limitations of what can be gained from the content of the source material, displaying some understanding of the need to interpret source material in the context of the values and concerns of the society from which it is drawn. • Evaluation of the source material uses valid criteria which are justified and applied, although some of the evaluation may not be fully substantiated. Evaluation takes into account the weight the evidence will bear as part of coming to a judgement.

Section B

Target: AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1–4	• Simple or generalised statements are made about the topic. • Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the question. • The overall judgement is missing or asserted. • There is little, if any, evidence of attempts to structure the answer, and the answer overall lacks coherence and precision.
2	5–10	• There is limited analysis of some key features of the period relevant to the question, but descriptive passages are included that are not clearly shown to relate to the question. • Mostly accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range or depth and has only implicit links to the demands and conceptual focus of the question. • An overall judgement is given but with limited substantiation, and the criteria for judgement are left implicit. • The answer shows some attempts at organisation, but most of the answer is lacking in coherence, clarity and precision.
3	11–16	• There is some analysis of, and attempt to explain links between, the relevant key features of the period and the question, although descriptive passages may be included. • Mostly accurate and relevant knowledge is included to demonstrate some understanding of the demands and conceptual focus of the question, but material lacks range or depth. • Attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement and to relate the overall judgement to them, although with weak substantiation. • The answer shows some organisation. The general trend of the argument is clear, but parts of it lack logic, coherence and precision.
4	17–20	• Key issues relevant to the question are explored by an analysis of the relationships between key features of the period, although treatment of issues may be uneven. • Sufficient knowledge is deployed to demonstrate understanding of the demands and conceptual focus of the question and to meet most of its demands. • Valid criteria by which the question can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement. Although some of the evaluations may be only partly substantiated, the overall judgement is supported. • The answer is generally well organised. The argument is logical and is communicated with clarity, although in a few places it may lack coherence and precision.

Section A: indicative content

Option 2D.1: The unification of Italy, c1830–70

Question	Indicative content
1a	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. Candidates must analyse the source to consider its value for an enquiry into the nature of Gioberti's views on nationalism in Italy in the 1840s. - The value could be identified in terms of the following points of information from the source, and the inferences which could be drawn and supported from the source: - It claims that Italy is capable of 'making itself' ('contains within herself...all the conditions required...<i>Risorgimento</i>.') through the vehicle of the Papacy ('above all through religion', 'authority of the Pope'). - It indicates that Italian unity should be achieved by neither internal disruption nor foreign interference ('co-operative confederation...would prevent revolutions at home and make foreign invasions impossible.') - It claims that the best political solution for Italian unification is the creation of a confederation ('benefits gained from a political confederation under...the Pope are endless.'). - It suggests that Giobertian nationalism is both moderate ('does not need revolutions within') and, essentially, conservative ('increase the strength of the various princes without damaging their independence.') in nature. - The following points could be made about the authorship, nature or purpose of the source and applied to ascribe value to information and inferences: - The source is written by Gioberti himself - The source is a manifesto outlining the beliefs and aims of Gioberti and the means he thought should be used to achieve his objectives - The source was published in response to growing radical nationalism and the emergence of competing nationalist solutions to the 'Italian question'. - Knowledge of historical context should be deployed to support and develop inferences and to confirm the accuracy/usefulness of information. Relevant points may include: - During the 1830s and 40s, calls for a 'rebirth' of Italy as a political and cultural entity increasingly gained favour, looking back on perceived past glories and the legacy of the ancient Roman Empire - Roman Catholic influence was an almost universal feature of life in Italy, and concepts of religious supremacy over civil matters and papal infallibility, led many to see the Pope as the natural ruler of Italy - The emergence of radical republican nationalism under the influence of Mazzini encouraged more moderate nationalists, such as Gioberti and Balbo, to put down their beliefs 'concretely' in writing in the 1840s - Foreign influence was a feature of the politics of restoration Italy. The 1830-31 revolutions had been inspired by revolution in France and restored rulers had had to rely on Austrian troops to put down the revolts.

Question	Indicative content
1b	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. Candidates must analyse and evaluate the source in relation to an enquiry into the impact of the rule of the restored Bourbon monarchy on the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in the years 1830-47. - The following points could be made about the origin and nature of the source and applied when giving weight to selected information and inferences: - The title of the pamphlet implies it was written to be critical of the situation in southern Italy, and so may exaggerate some of the observations being made - The source was originally published anonymously and so it may well be the author felt able to describe the conditions as they really were - As a well-known liberal critic, and ex-political prisoner, Settembrini is likely to have been biased in his opinion of the conditions outlined; this is supported by the tone of the language used in the source. - The evidence could be assessed in terms of giving weight to the following points of information and inferences: - It claims that the government of the Two Sicilies was corrupt, ineffective and incompetent ('in the hands of scoundrels and fools', 'who offer him the highest bribes', 'Instead of being helped...squeezed dry of money.') - It indicates that social conditions have deteriorated ('condition of the peasants...appalling.', 'our poverty-stricken country.', 'No other country has so many beggars.') - It suggests that the Kingdom's infrastructure is backward and has made little progress economically ('Trade is restricted...provinces lack roads.', 'A railway has been built to link up two royal palaces.') - It suggests that the leadership of the Kingdom has made it ripe for revolution ('satisfy a King's selfish wishes...do not benefit a nation.', 'a King who claims he does everything, and in fact does nothing.'). - Knowledge of historical context should be deployed to support and develop inferences and to confirm the accuracy/usefulness of information or to note limitations or to challenge aspects of the content. Relevant points may include: - In the 1830s and 1840s, in liberal circles in Italy, and across Europe, the Bourbon monarchy became synonymous with reactionary and repressive government, particularly the poor treatment of political prisoners - Economic conditions in 1846-47 were challenging throughout Italy and not just southern Italy. Conditions for agriculture were naturally poor - The restored Bourbon monarchy suffered from its non-Italian ancestry and was often viewed with suspicion, particularly by those in Sicily, who saw their rule as oppressive - The Bourbon monarchy did introduce moderate reforms and began to invest in infrastructure in the 1840s. The monarchy had a significant following amongst conservative social groups, e.g. the upper-middle class.

Option 2D.2: The unification of Germany, c1840–71

Question	Indicative content
2a	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. Candidates must analyse the source to consider its value for an enquiry into Prussia's relationship with the other German states after the defeat of Austria in 1866. - The value could be identified in terms of the following points of information from the source, and the inferences which could be drawn and supported from the source: - It implies that Prussia intends to take complete political control of northern Germany ('the relationship...should be made as tight as possible', 'unconditional control over our own military forces and... other states') - It claims that South Germany should be treated more favourably than North Germany ('favourable, light') but suggests that it expects South Germany to act in Prussia's interest ('need only a clear assurance') - It suggests that Prussia has some concerns about the future actions of the South German states ('never be tempted by foreign Powers or into a hostility...') - It indicates that Prussia hopes that pre-existing organisational structures will be utilised across Germany to strengthen the economy ('economic interests... assured through common institutions already in existence.'). - The following points could be made about the authorship, nature or purpose of the source and applied to ascribe value to information and inferences: - The source was written by Bismarck who was the driving force in Prussian policy at the time - The source was written in January 1867 and so gives immediate insight into the development of Prussia's relations with other German states in the context of the defeat of Austria in 1866 - The dispatch was written to the Prussian representative in Bavaria, one of the four major South German states, and so is likely to give a candid outline of Prussia's intentions in regard to the policies to be pursued. - Knowledge of historical context should be deployed to support and develop inferences and to confirm the accuracy/usefulness of information. Relevant points may include: - The annexations and federalisation of the north, in the wake of the Seven Weeks' War, meant that many in the north were openly wary of Prussian intentions and Prussia was determined to consolidate its strength there - As far as King William and Bismarck were concerned, the North German Confederation was a Prussian entity and Bismarck ensured that it was run as such - In 1867, there was the potential for south German states to ally with Austria, or even France, in any dispute with Prussia - South Germany benefited economically from the Prussian-led <i>Zollverein</i>, and, in 1867, they agreed to continue membership of, and were represented formally in, the newly-created <i>Zollparlament</i>.

Question	Indicative content
2b	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. Candidates must analyse and evaluate the source in relation to an enquiry into the responsibility for the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. 1. The following points could be made about the origin and nature of the source and applied when giving weight to selected information and inferences: • The lecture was given by an expert in international and European matters from outside of either France or Prussia, so Sumner could probably be expected to comment from an initially objective position • The source was delivered in a public forum, and the date possibly suggests that the lecture was intended to inform a public audience about the ongoing events in a foreign country in a time of limited mass media • The critical tone and language used by Sumner against France ('monstrous <i>blunder-crime</i>') suggests a one-sided view of events. 2. The evidence could be assessed in terms of giving weight to the following points of information and inferences: • It initially indicates that the peace between the two countries may have been shattered by uncontrollable events ('suddenly and unexpectedly, circumstances changed ...forces of new technology...telegram') • It claims that French actions were gratuitous and unjust ('what right did France', 'France was plainly acting unjustifiably', 'it was none of its business') • It implies that French arrogance was wholly responsible for the outbreak of the war ('selected its own grounds for war.') with Prussia playing virtually no part at all ('Bismarck...country home...King enjoying...Ems.') • It indicates that France blamed the outbreak of war on Prussia ('the affair of the Ems telegram'). 3. Knowledge of historical context should be deployed to support and develop inferences and to confirm the accuracy/usefulness of information or to note limitations or to challenge aspects of the content. Relevant points may include: • Relations between France and Prussia had steadily been breaking down since 1866, as each felt that the other threatened its security and each desired to be the dominant influence in Europe • The French felt that the Hohenzollern Candidature was a direct threat to the security of France. Prussian royalty on the throne of Spain would mean Prussian influence on the French border to the south and the east • France had been preparing militarily for a potential future war with Prussia. The French leaders felt that the wording of the Ems Telegram could be used to kick-start a war popular with the French masses • In October 1870, it was not yet clear the extent to which Bismarck had manipulated the wording and use of the Ems Telegram to incite France.

Section B: indicative content

Option 2D.1: The unification of Italy, c1830–70

Question	Indicative content
3	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement about whether the main reason for the failure of the 1848-49 revolutions in Italy was a lack of popular support. Arguments and evidence that the main reason for the failure of the 1848-49 revolutions in Italy was a lack of popular support should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • There was limited support from the peasant majority in the Italian states for revolution. The liberal and nationalist movements had often openly distrusted the apparent conservatism of the rural population • There was some degree of popular support for the restored order, e.g. the Bourbon monarchy on the mainland of the Two Sicilies, Austrian-ruled territory was considered moderate by many • After the initial success of some revolutions, a failure to address the needs of some groups, such as the peasantry and middle classes, led to disillusion. Peasants drove the counter-revolution in The Two Sicilies • Popular support for the First War of Italian Independence waned after the Papal Allocution (April 1848) withdrew support from the papacy for Charles Albert's war against Austria. Arguments and evidence that other reasons were more important for the failure of the 1848-49 revolutions in Italy was a lack of popular support should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Much of the revolutionary activity had a genuinely popular support base, particularly in Sicily, Rome, Milan and Venice • The resurgence of Austrian power, after initial setbacks, e.g. Radetzky's counter-offensive in the north, defeat of Piedmont at Novara (1849) • The international response, e.g. France directly intervened in overcoming the Roman Republic, while Britain, despite making some sympathetic noises, declined to intervene in the internal politics of the Italian states • A lack of revolutionary unity and localism, e.g. the inability and unwillingness of revolutionary leaders, such as Mazzini and Manin, to combine in an Italian-wide revolutionary movement. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
4	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement as to whether the rise of Piedmont, in the years 1849-56, was due to its political stability. Arguments and evidence that the rise of Piedmont, in the years 1849-56, was due to its political stability should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The accession of Victor Emmanuel II in 1849, and his agreement to continue the <i>Statuto</i>, brought political stability and laid the foundations for Piedmont's growth as a liberal state • The appointment of Cavour as Prime Minister in 1852, and the politics of the <i>connubio</i>, enabled the strengthening of the resources and infrastructure of Piedmont through government initiative and investments • Domestic confidence in the stability of Piedmont encouraged economic development, and the arrival of an increasing numbers of Italian nationalists willing to view Piedmont as the solution to the 'Italian Question' • International confidence in the stability of Piedmont encouraged economic investment, and the acknowledgment of Piedmont as an international power. Arguments and evidence that the rise of Piedmont, in the years 1849-56, was not due to its political stability should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The political environment remained volatile and divisive, e.g. anti-clericalism and civil marriage, relations with the Papacy, political intrigue, fluctuating support for nationalists, treatment of radicals • It was the work of Cavour as an individual that drove the growth and development of Piedmont as a state, and engineered the presence of Piedmont on the international stage • It was economic developments that provided the infrastructure, industrial growth and prosperity required for the rise of Piedmont • International developments, e.g. the Crimean War, allowed Piedmont to become a recognised European power and the Italian state most likely to be the solution to the 'Italian Question'. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
5	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement as to whether the main consequence of the Second Italian War of Independence (1859) for the process of Italian unification was the decline in Austrian influence. Arguments and evidence that the main consequence of the Second Italian War of Independence (1859) for the process of Italian unification was the decline in Austrian influence should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The failure of Austria to win outright, and its decision to come to terms with France, severely damaged Austrian prestige, and so resulted in the loss of Austrian pre-eminence over the Italian peninsula as a whole • The loss of Lombardy led to the expansion of the direct rule of Piedmont, so strengthening Piedmont's position as the dominant power in northern Italy • The Austrians were no longer willing, or strategically able, to intervene militarily in events in Italy outside of their direct control, as they had done in the past. The Quadrilateral was no longer available to them • The Habsburg rulers of central Italy could no longer rely on Austrian support, allowing challenges to their rule and the subsequent annexation by Piedmont. Arguments and evidence that the decline in Austrian influence was not the main consequence of the Second Italian War of Independence (1859) for the process of Italian unification should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The initiation, and outcome, of the War meant that Piedmont, supported by the National Society, became the driving force in the process of Italian unification • Cavour's anger at France suing for peace at Villafranca without Piedmontese agreement made him determined to ensure that Piedmont would gain central Italy without direct French influence • The French became the preeminent international power in the Italian peninsula, e.g. the continued presence of the French garrison in Rome, acting as power broker in the Italian accession of Venetia in 1866 • The loss of Nice and Savoy was the key motivator for Garibaldi to reignite his ambitions to force the unification of Italy, and subsequently led to the expedition to Sicily. Other relevant material must be credited.

Option 2D.2: The unification of Germany, c1840–71

Question	Indicative content
6	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement about the significance of the constitutional crisis in Baden for the outbreak of the 1848-49 revolutions in Germany. Arguments and evidence that the constitutional crisis in Baden was significant for the outbreak of the 1848-49 revolutions in Germany should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The granting of a liberal constitution by the ruler of Baden in 1846, after considerable pressure from liberals and radicals, indicated to opponents of conservatism in other states that political change was possible • The political changes in Baden attracted radical liberals from across Germany, so that Baden became the focus of those advocating radical change and revolutionary ideas • The radical Offenburger manifesto (September 1847), outlining democratic and human rights for all, became the basis of the demands made by revolutionaries across Germany in 1848, including the Frankfurt delegates • The outbreak of revolution in Baden in February 1848 saw the first significant acts of violence against the 'old order' and was the signal for many of the radicals in the smaller German states to take action. Arguments and evidence that the significance of the constitutional crisis in Baden for the outbreak of the 1848-49 revolutions in Germany was limited/other factors were more significant should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • There was a general upsurge in liberal and nationalist activity in many of the German states in the years 1846-48, of which Baden was only one example. Even in Prussia, the King had contemplated some liberal reform • The revolution in France in February 1848 'kick-started' the revolutionary activity in Germany. Baden was the first German state to react to the events in France • The economic crisis of 1846-47 negatively affected both rural and urban populations, so triggering revolutionary activity across Germany. It was the peasants in Baden who attacked noble estates in February 1848 • The fall of Metternich (March 1848), and the subsequent rapid loss of power of the Austrian Empire, so early in the events of 1848-49, encouraged revolutionaries in the German Confederation states. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
7	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on the extent to which the response of Frederick William IV of Prussia to the revolutions in Germany changed in the years 1848-49. Arguments and evidence that the response of Frederick William IV of Prussia to the revolutions in Germany changed in the years 1848-49 should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • After his initial reluctance to address the revolutionary activity in Prussia, in March 1848, through a mixture of force and pragmatism, Frederick William agreed to major liberal reforms and did not oppose national developments • In the autumn of 1848, Frederick William oversaw events that overturned his willingness to work with the newly-formed National Assembly, resulting in its disbandment and a full-scale counter-revolution • On 5 December 1848, Frederick William announced that a new Prussian constitution would be introduced that would originate from his own perception of a constitutional monarchy • Having allowed Prussian delegates to attend the Frankfurt Assembly, and the use of Prussian troops, in spring 1849, Frederick William withdrew the delegates and rejected the offer of the crown of a <i>Kleindeutschland</i>. Arguments and evidence that the response of Frederick William IV of Prussia to the revolutions in Germany did not change in the years 1848-49 should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Frederick William remained a firm believer in the divine authority of the monarchy throughout the revolutionary period, citing such authority in rejecting proposals for him to become leader of a united Germany • From his base in Potsdam, Frederick William maintained a conservative outlook across the period, initially attempting to pre-empt liberal demands and later re-establishing his authority at the earliest opportunity • Frederick William maintained personal control of the Prussian army throughout the revolutionary period, so allowing him to bide his time in reasserting his conservative agenda from the autumn of 1848 • Frederick William continued to support the power of the Habsburg monarchy in Germany and to acknowledge the symbolic pre-eminence of the Austrian Emperor in Germany. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
8	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material which is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on the statement that there was little challenge to Austrian leadership of the German states in the years 1849-65. Arguments and evidence that there was little challenge to Austrian leadership of the German states in the years 1849-65 should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The punctuation of Olmütz (November 1850) saw Austria establish itself as the post-1848-49 political leader of the German States, with Prussian agreement and the reconstitution of the German Confederation • Austria remained both the symbolic and direct 'head' of the German Confederation throughout the period, taking the lead in political developments, e.g. the reforms of the Confederation, 1863 • The strength of the Austrian military provided the basic underpinning for the security of the German states, e.g. Prussia preferred to act against Denmark in 1864 with the support of the Austrian army • The Austrian Emperor represented the German states, as the leader of the German Confederation, in international matters and was accepted as the international spokesman for 'German' affairs. Arguments and evidence that Austrian leadership of the German states was challenged in the years 1849-65 should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • For much of 1849-50, Prussia was in a good position to challenge Austria, with the establishment of the Erfurt Union (June 1849) and in an agreement for joint leadership from September 1849-May 1850 • Prussia established itself as the economic leader of Germany with its enhancement of the <i>Zollverein</i>, both internally and internationally. Austria was humiliated by the rejection of its <i>Mitteuropa</i> plan • Austria did not always receive the support of the German rulers in Confederation business and, in 1863, received direct challenges from both Prussia and Saxony during attempts to reform the Confederation • Prussian involvement in international affairs challenged Austrian pre-eminence, e.g. Crimean War, Italy in 1859, relations with Russia and the Gastein Convention (1865). Other relevant material must be credited.