



GCE

History A

Y218/01: International relations 1890-1941

A Level

Mark Scheme for June 2025

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARATION FOR MARKING RM ASSESSOR

1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Online Training: OCR Essential Guide to Marking*.
2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are available in RM Assessor
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses (“scripts”) and the **required number** of standardisation responses.

MARKING

1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 40% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone or the RM Assessor messaging system, or by email.
5. **Crossed Out Responses**
Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

Rubric Error Responses – Optional Questions

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the highest mark from those awarded. (*The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.*)

Multiple Choice Question Responses

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate).

When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.

Contradictory Responses

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

Short Answer Questions (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only **one mark per response**)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)*

Short Answer Questions (requiring a more developed response, worth **two or more marks**)

If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

Longer Answer Questions (requiring a developed response)

Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there, then add a tick to confirm that the work has been seen.

7. There is a NR (**No Response**) option. Award NR (No Response):

- if there is nothing written at all in the answer space
- OR if there is a comment which does not in any way relate to the question (e.g., 'can't do', 'don't know')
- OR if there is a mark (e.g., a dash, a question mark) which is not an attempt at the question.

Note: Award 0 marks – for an attempt that earns no credit (including copying out the question).

8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your team leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**

If you have any questions or comments for your team leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or e-mail.

9. Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.

10. For answers marked by levels of response:

- a. **To determine the level** – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that matches the answer
- b. **To determine the mark within the level**, consider the following

Descriptor	Award mark
On the borderline of this level and the one below	At bottom of level
Just enough achievement on balance for this level	Above bottom and either below middle or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Meets the criteria but with some slight inconsistency	Above middle and either below top of level or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Consistently meets the criteria for this level	At top of level

11. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Blank Page
	Highlight
Off-page comment	
	Assertion
	Analysis
	Evaluation
	Explanation
	Factor
	Illustrates/Describes
	Irrelevant, a significant amount of material that does not answer the question
	Judgement
	Knowledge and understanding
	Simple comment
	Unclear
	View

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
1	(a)	Which of the following had the greater influence on developments in the Far East during the period from 1918 to 1941? (i) The Manchurian Crisis (ii) The war between Japan and China 1937-1941 Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii). In arguing the Manchurian Crisis had the greater influence, - answers might consider it was the first action in an aggressive redirection of Japanese foreign policy - Answers might argue it led to 'the Fifteen Years' War' and the 'Great Asia Association' in 1933. - Answers might consider Western views of Japan as a pariah state in the Far East rather than as a junior ally from this point. - Answers might consider the effects of the failure of the West and the League to take military action. In arguing the Japan/China war had greater influence, - answers might consider the proclamation of the 'New Order in East Asia' in 1938. - Answers might argue that it made reintegration of Japan into the international system impossible.	10	The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set. <u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u> The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set. - No set answer is expected - Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material. - Only credit material relevant to question. - Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable. - Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.

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Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			- Answers might argue the war's stalemate increased Japanese fear of the Soviet Union and built Japan's closer relationship with the Axis. - Answers might consider the role of the war as a cause of the attack on Pearl Harbour.		

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
1	(b)*	'Militarism was the main cause of the First World War.' How far do you agree? In arguing militarism was the main cause, • answers might consider the effects of rising military expenditure and increasing size of armed forces amongst the great powers in the years before 1914. • Answers might consider the effects of growing military influence on policy, especially in Germany and Russia, in the years before 1914. • Answers might consider the effects of the Anglo-German Naval Race. • Answers might consider the effects of increased military cooperation amongst both rival allied blocs. • Answers might consider the effects of military planning during, for example, the July Crisis of 1914. • Answers might consider the bellicose attitude of individual monarchs and their subjects' militaristic cultures. In arguing other factors were more important than militarism, • answers might consider growing militarism was a long-term factor and, nevertheless, major war amongst the great powers was avoided before	20	How far do you agree? The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set. Both features that support the hypothesis and features that challenge the hypothesis are detailed. <u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u> The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set. • No set answer is expected. • At higher levels candidates will focus on 'main cause' but at Level 4 may simply list factors. • At Level 5 there will be judgement as to relative significance. • At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge relative significance. • To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation; it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.

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Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			1914, despite, for example, serious emergencies such as the 1908 Bosnian Crisis. • Answers might consider the significance of the short-term factor of the July Crisis of 1914. • Answers might consider the significance of the alliance system. • Answers might consider the significance of events in the Balkans before 1914. • Answers might consider the foreign policy blunders of the great powers. • Answers might consider the importance of colonial disputes. • Answers might consider the role of 19C and early 20C nationalism.		

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(a)	Which of the following was the more important reason for the outcome the First World War? i) The role of the generals ii) The entry into the war of the USA Explain your answer with reference to (i) and (ii). In arguing the generals' role was more important. - Answers might consider the long-term impact of German generals' alterations to the Schlieffen Plan. - Answers might consider the impact of British & French generals after the Somme e.g., Foch. - Answers might consider the actions of Russian generals e.g., on the Russian Front in 1914. - Answers might consider the outcome of failures of generals at Gallipoli. - Answers might consider the role of Ludendorff's 1918 'Spring Offensive' in extending the conflict. In arguing the USA's entry into the war was more important. - answers might argue it was a turning point by making Germany's defeat possible. - Answers might consider the influx of supplies and the extension of credit to America's allies. - Answers might consider the role of US troops. - Answers might consider the contribution of the US navy (e.g., in hunting U-boats).	10	The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set. <u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u> The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set. - No set answer is expected - Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material. - Only credit material relevant to question. - Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable. - Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.

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Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			Answers might consider the engagement of South American countries as a result of the USA's declaration of war.		

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(b)*		How successful were the Locarno Treaties in the period from 1925 to 1935? In arguing the treaties were successful, • answers might consider the ‘improvement’ on Versailles provided by Locarno and the stabilisation it provided after the Ruhr Crisis of 1923. • Answers might consider Locarno’s indication of Germany’s return to the international fold and her entry into the league of Nations. • Answers might consider the relationship between Locarno and the subsequent Kellogg-Briand Pact and Hague agreement on Rhineland evacuation. • Answers might consider Mussolini’s role and the apparent change of outlook implied from the Corfu Crisis. • Answers might consider the continuation of Locarno implied by 1933’s Four Power Pact. • Answers might consider Mussolini’s prevention of Anschluss in 1934. • Answers might consider the creation of the Stresa Front in 1935. In arguing the treaties were less successful, • answers might consider the differences Locarno contained in relation to Germany’s Eastern and Western borders implied the	20	The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set. <u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u> The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set. • No set answer is expected. • At higher levels candidates will focus on ‘how successful’ but at Level 4 may simply list successes and failures. • At Level 5 there will be judgement as to the degree of success. • At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge the degree of success. • To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			former could – and perhaps should – be altered. • Answers might consider that since Locarno confirmed frontiers established at Versailles, it seemed to imply Versailles was not fully binding. • Answers might consider only four years after Locarno, the Wall Street Crash brought about the disintegration of the stability it had created. • Answers might consider Hitler's accession to power underlined the collapse of the Locarno spirit, noting that, despite joining the Four Power Pact, he withdrew from the Disarmament Conference and the League only three months later and reintroduced conscription in Germany in 1935.		

APPENDIX 1 – this contains a generic mark scheme grid

	<i>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.</i>
	Generic mark scheme for Question 1(a) and Question 2(a): Which of the following? [10]
Level 6 9–10 marks	Both factors are thoroughly analysed and evaluated using accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a developed and substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
Level 5 7–8 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
Level 4 5–6 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using relevant knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, however treatment of factors may be un-even with analysis and evaluation of one of the two being only partial. Analysis and evaluation is used to support a reasonable judgement in relation to the question.
Level 3 3–4 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated in a partial way, using some relevant knowledge of key features of the period, in order to make a basic judgement in relation to the question.
Level 2 2 marks	Limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a limited analysis or evaluation of both factors, and this is linked to a very simplistic judgement.
Level 1 1 mark	Very limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a very limited analysis or evaluation of one of the factors. The other factor is either not considered or there is very limited information or description of the factor with no attempt to use this knowledge. If there is a judgement, this takes the form of assertion.
0 marks	Nothing of any relevance to the factors.

	<i>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.</i>
	Generic mark scheme for Question 1(b) and Question 2(b): Essay [20]
Level 6 17–20 marks	There is a consistent focus on the question throughout the answer. Accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated throughout the answer and is consistently evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated, developed and sustained judgements. There is a well-developed and sustained line of reasoning which is coherent and logically structured. The information presented is entirely relevant and substantiated.
Level 5 13–16 marks	There is a mostly consistent focus on the question. Generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer and is evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated judgements, but these are not consistently well-developed. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and in the most part substantiated.
Level 4 10–12 marks	The question is generally addressed. Generally accurate and sometimes detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer with evaluation and some analysis, and this is used appropriately to support the judgements that are made. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.
Level 3 7–9 marks	The question is partially addressed. There is demonstration of some relevant knowledge and understanding, which is evaluated and analysed in parts of the answer, but in places knowledge is imparted rather than being used. The analysis is appropriately linked to the judgements made, though the way in which it supports the judgements may not always be made explicit. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.
Level 2 4–6 marks	The focus is more on the topic than the specific demands of the question. Knowledge and understanding is limited and not well used, with only limited evaluation and analysis, which is only sometimes linked appropriately to the judgements made. The information has some relevance but is communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.
Level 1 1–3 marks	The answer relates to the topic but not the specific question. The answer contains only very limited relevant knowledge which is evaluated and analysed in a very limited way. Judgements are unsupported and are not linked to analysis. Relevant knowledge is limited, generalised and poorly used; attempts at argument are no more than assertion. Information presented is basic and may be ambiguous or unstructured. The information is supported by limited evidence.
0 marks	No evidence of understanding and no demonstration of any relevant knowledge.

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