



GCE

History A

Y311/01: The origins and growth of the British Empire 1558-1783

A Level

Mark Scheme for June 2024

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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 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 posted on the RM Cambridge Assessment Support Portal <http://www.rm.com/support/ca>
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses (“scripts”) and the **number of required** standardisation responses.

YOU MUST MARK 5 PRACTICE AND 6 STANDARDISATION RESPONSES BEFORE YOU CAN BE APPROVED TO MARK LIVE SCRIPTS.

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. Award No Response (NR) if:
- there is nothing written in the answer space

Award Zero '0' if:

- anything is written in the answer space and is not worthy of credit (this includes text and symbols).

Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

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:
- To determine the level** – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that matches the answer
 - 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
BP	Blank Page
	Highlight
Off-page comment	
A	Assertion
AN	Analysis
EVAL	Evaluation
EXP	Explanation
F	Factor
ILL	Illustrates/Describes
IRRL	Irrelevant, a significant amount of material that does not answer the question
J	Judgement
KU	Knowledge and understanding
P	Provenance
SC	Simple comment
	Unclear
V	View

Y311/01

Mark Scheme

June 2024

Annotation	Meaning
S	Synthesis
C	Continuity/Change

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
1			Evaluate the Interpretations in both of the two passages. Explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the reasons for privateering during the reign of Elizabeth I. In locating the Interpretations within the wider historical debate, answers might suggest that Interpretation A argues that religion and economic prosperity were important • In evaluating Interpretation A, answers might argue that the interpretation is correct as England wanted access to the wealth of the New World • Answers might argue that there were very large returns on many enterprises – Cecil, Leicester and Elizabeth received 60% in 1564 • Answers might argue that Hawkins wanted to supply slaves to the New World • Answers might argue Drake's activities were piratical, capturing the town of Nombre de Dios • Answers might argue that the attacks prevented some bullion reaching Spain, but did not lead to open war until 1587 • Answers might argue that in the years 1577-80 Drake plundered Spanish colonies, even capturing California In locating the Interpretations within the wider historical debate, answers might suggest that	30	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 Level 5 and above answers will evaluate both interpretations, locating them within the wider historical debate about the issue and using their own knowledge, and reach a balanced judgement as to which they consider the most convincing about the issue in the question. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used to analyse and evaluate the interpretations, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			Interpretation B argues that privateering was used as an instrument of foreign policy • In evaluating Interpretation B, answers might argue that Elizabeth could not afford a full-scale war with Spain, so privateering allowed it to be delayed • Answers might argue that privateering allowed Elizabeth to distance herself from the actions • Answers might argue that the seizure of Spanish bullion ships weakened their finances and prevented war with England until 1587 • Answers might argue that England was concerned by Spanish actions and success in the Netherlands as they threatened national security • Answers might argue that conflict with Spain was not the result of Hawkins' actions but Alva's arrival in Brussels • Answers might argue the attack at San Juan de Ulua was pivotal in deteriorating relations		

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
2*			‘Of all the key individuals driving imperial expansion in the period from 1558 to 1783, Clive was the most important.’ How far do you agree? Answers might consider some of the following themes: territorial gains, economic gains, personal ambition, imperial ambitions, exploration In supporting the hypothesis in the question, • It might be argued that it was Clive who secured British control in India through his military victories, such as Plassey • Answers might consider the defeat of the French in India • Answers might consider the role of Clive as Governor of Bengal • Answers might consider Clive's role in the East India Company • Answers might consider the personal wealth gained by Clive through his work in India • Answers might consider the importance of his capture of Arcot In challenging the hypothesis in the question, • It might be argued that individual monarchs such as James I were important, as he brought the Virginia Company's settlements under direct British rule.	25	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 answers might establish criteria against which to judge the validity of the interpretation. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • 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.

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			• Answers might consider that Raleigh obtained a patent to establish a colony off the coast of North Carolina, although it did not prosper. • Answers might consider the support given to privateers by Elizabeth I • Answers might consider that privateers, such as Drake, encouraged interest in the Americas and that led to imperial expansion. • Answers might consider the role of Hawkins in establishing links with the New World • Answers might consider the role of Wolfe in Canada and that no trading company was involved. • Answers might consider the role of explorers in identifying new territory and sea routes		

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
3*			‘Plantations were the most effective method of economic exploitation in the period from 1558 to 1783.’ How far do you agree? Answers might consider some of the following themes: privateering, trading and chartered companies, plantations, indentured labour, Navigation Acts, slavery In supporting the hypothesis in the question,	25	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. Other

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			• It might be argued that plantations were an effective way as they used slave labour and were therefore cheap • Answers might consider the wealth created from tobacco and sugar plantations • Answers might consider the wealth generated by the plantations in the West Indies, which was greater than America • Answers might consider the use of plantations for the growth of cotton, particularly in the southern states of America • Answers might consider that plantations could better exploit labour than small estates • Answers might consider the initial use of indentured labour and its efficiency In challenging the hypothesis in the question, • It might be argued that mercantilism was more effective as it allowed the export of more goods than were imported, so a profitable balance of trade developed and increased the nation's wealth • Answers might consider that mercantilism secured the supply of highly prized commodities, such as tea, sugar and spices and other raw materials • Answers might consider the use of Trade and Navigation Acts which gave the English a monopoly of the carrying trade with the colonies • Answers might consider that mercantilism made the American colonies particularly		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 answers might establish criteria against which to judge the validity of the interpretation. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • 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.

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			valuable, with a third of British exports crossing the Atlantic by 1760 • Answers might consider that the development of trading companies, such as the EIC, was the most effective method • Answers might consider the role of Chartered Companies that were established in America as the most effective • Answers might consider the impact of privateering		
4*			‘The acquisition of raw materials was the most important effect of Empire on Britain in the period from 1558 to 1783.’ How far do you agree? Answers might consider some of the following themes: economic effects, socio-cultural effects, political effects, scientific knowledge, geographical knowledge In supporting the hypothesis in the question, • It might be argued that Britain gained products such as spices, sugar and tobacco • Answers might consider that later Britain gained cotton, and this helped the start of the Industrial Revolution • Answers might consider that some of the goods were manufactured and sold on, bringing Britain considerable wealth • Answers might consider the impact of the acquisition of tea and coffee	25	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. Other 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.

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			• Answers might consider how much Britain spent on defending trade routes, showing their importance • Answers might consider the development of ports and manufacturing towns linked to the acquisition of raw materials from the Empire – Liverpool, Manchester In challenging the hypothesis in the question, • It might be argued that economic impacts were greater as developments in banking were encouraged • It might be argued that geographical knowledge was widened • It might be argued that the Empire encouraged scientific developments, both for exploration and to allow trade and exploitation • It might be argued that Empire encouraged migration to industrial towns in the search for jobs • It might be argued that it encouraged people to leave Britain to settle in new lands, such as America • It might be argued that Empire resulted in Britain's involvement in war • It might be argued that Empire had an impact on society and culture, with changes in the visual arts		• No set answer is expected. • At higher levels answers might establish criteria against which to judge the validity of the interpretation. • To be valid, judgements must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • 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.

APPENDIX 1 – this contains a generic mark scheme grid

	<i>AO3: Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, different ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted.</i>
	Generic mark scheme for Section A, Question 1: Interpretation [30]
Level 6 26–30 marks	The answer has a very good focus on the question throughout. It has thorough and sustained evaluation of the interpretations, using detailed and accurate knowledge of the historical context and the wider historical debate around the issue, in order to produce a convincing and supported analysis of them in relation to the question.
Level 5 21–25 marks	The answer has a good focus on the question throughout. It has good evaluation of the interpretations, using relevant knowledge of the historical context and the wider historical debate around the issue, in order to produce a supported analysis of them in relation to the question.
Level 4 16–20 marks	The answer is mostly focused on the question. It has evaluation of the interpretations based on generally relevant knowledge of the historical context and the wider historical debate around the issue, in order to produce an analysis of them in relation to the question.
Level 3 11–15 marks	The answer is partially focused on the question. It has partial evaluation of the interpretations based on some knowledge of the historical context and the wider historical debate around the issue. There may be some use of information from one of the two interpretations to support the evaluation of the other, but the evaluation will not rely on this. There is a limited analysis of the interpretations in relation to the question.
Level 2 6–10 marks	The answer has a limited focus on the question. Parts of the answer are just description of the interpretations, with evaluation in relation to historical context and the wider historical debate around the issue being weak, and evaluation relying heavily on information drawn from the other interpretation. There is a very limited analysis of the interpretations in relation to the question.
Level 1 1–5 marks	The answer has some relevance to the topic, but not the specific question. The answer consists mostly of description of the interpretations with very limited evaluation based on very generalised knowledge of historical context and minimal or no reference to the wider historical debate. Analysis of the interpretations in relation to the question is either in the form of assertion or lacking.
0 marks	No evidence of understanding and no demonstration of any relevant knowledge.

	<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 Section B, Questions 2, 3 and 4: Essay [25]
Level 6 21–25 marks	The answer has a very good focus on the question. Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding is used to analyse and evaluate key features of the period studied in order to reach a fully developed synthesis supporting a convincing and substantiated judgement. 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 17–20 marks	The answer has a good focus on the question. Generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is used to analyse and evaluate key features of the period studied in order to reach a developed synthesis supporting a substantiated judgement. 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 13–16 marks	The answer is mostly focused on the question. Relevant knowledge and understanding is used to analyse and evaluate key features of the period studied in order to reach a synthesis supporting a reasonable judgement. 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 9–12 marks	The answer has a partial focus on the question. Some relevant knowledge and understanding is used to analyse and explain key features of the period studied in order to attempt an undeveloped synthesis, which is linked to a judgement, though the supporting explanation may lack detail and clarity. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.
Level 2 5–8 marks	The answer has only a limited focus on the question. Limited relevant knowledge and understanding is used to give a limited explanation and analysis of key features of the period studied. There is a judgement but this may not be clearly linked with the supporting explanation. 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 1–4 marks	The answer has a limited focus on the topic, but not the specific question. The answer is largely descriptive, with only very generalised knowledge of the period studied being used to attempt basic explanation and very limited analysis. Judgements are unsupported and are not linked to analysis. Information presented is basic and may be ambiguous or unstructured. The information is supported by limited evidence.
0 marks	The answer contains no relevant information.

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