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GCSE History 8145  
Specimen Paper 1 Section B (Conflict and  
tension, 1918–1939)  
Student 2 Questions 11–14  
Specimen Answer and Commentary  
V1.0

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**Specimen answer plus commentary**

The following student responses illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions and it's not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer. The marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

**Paper 1 Section B (Conflict and tension, 1918–1938): Specimen Questions 11–14****11 Study Source D.**

**Source D opposes Germany. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source D and your contextual knowledge.**

**[4 marks]****Student response**

We know Source D opposes Germany because Germany is caught as the criminal. This suggests that Britain and France are the police officers. Also, there is an unpleasant expression Germany's face. Germany lost the war and they were the enemy in Britain and France's eyes hence they are the criminal. The policemen show law and order and this means that Britain and France are the victors of the war. The background is in ruins so this shows the damage Germany had done in the war for example: 750,000 homes and 16,000 factories destroyed in France.

**Commentary – Level 2**

A developed analysis which uses context linked to the source. Answer achieves bottom of a Level 2.

**12 Study Sources E and F.**

**How useful are Sources E and F to a historian studying opinions about the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer using Sources E and F and your contextual knowledge.**

**[12 marks]****Student response**

Source E states that it is a German cartoon so this shows the German's point of view. This may question whether the source is reliable or not. Clemenceau is shown as the vampire that is sucking blood. This suggests that Clemenceau is taking away Germany's reparations and their loss of land. These were the things Germany was mostly angry about. Also, Germany blamed France for the harshness of the Treaty of Versailles, which is fair as Clemenceau wanted to destroy Germany because of all the damage Germany had done to France. Germany wanted to evoke sympathy to show how harshly they had been treated.

Source F shows a lot of criticism towards the Treaty of Versailles. It is mostly directed at Clemenceau for the harshness of the treaty. The only way Germany was able to rebuild it's economy was because of American loans. Also, British economic expert criticised the treaty even though Britain won the war. Therefore this makes it a reliable source. The harsh terms would build resentment and would give no economic recovery. It is an accurate assessment of the economic problem and the Big Three. Any doubts of Source E is cancelled out by Source F.

**Commentary – Level 3**

Developed evaluations and also explained them. Stronger on Source E than F, this is a Mid-Level 3 answer.

**13 Write an account of how events in Manchuria became an international crisis in the years 1931–1933.**

**[8 marks]**

**Student response**

The events in Manchuria became an international crisis because Japan, who was in the League of Nations, invaded Manchuria. What made this even more wrong than it already was, was that Japan was a permanent member of The League. Therefore it damaged The League's reputation. Another factor was the Lytton Commission, which took a year to come to a decision and then did not put full blame on Japan. Also, The League put no economic sanctions on Japan, but Japan could've traded with America, if there were. Britain and France could not really afford to introduce economic sanctions as they were both in the aftermath of the great depression.

After Japan had invaded Manchuria, she left The League which made The League seem unimportant and mediocre.

**Commentary – Level 3**

A developed explanation of one of the elements in the crisis. Reaches a low Level 3.

**14 'The Nazi-Soviet Pact was the main reason for the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.**

**[16 marks]**

**Student response**

The Nazi-Soviet Pact was a pact between Germany and Russia confirming that they would both get one half of Poland.

The pact played a big role in the outbreak of the Second World War but I believe appeasement played a bigger. Appeasement is the process of excusing wrongdoings in order to keep peace. This is what France and Britain kept doing to Germany. By the time the Pact was made and Hitler was ready to invade Poland, Hitler did not believe France or Britain would do anything as they had been letting him get away with everything for so long.

You could argue that before 1938, everything Hitler was doing was perfectly legal and therefore, appeasement was not being used to excuse him of major wrongdoings.

If Russia had not felt that France and Britain would not have defended them from an attack by Germany, the most likely would not have signed the Pact.

Overall I believe that the Nazi-Soviet Pact was not the main reason for the outbreak of World War II. This is because I feel appeasement played a bigger role, by excusing Hitler so many times that it lead to him believing he could invade Poland and get away with it. If he had not been let off so many times he may not have believed that he could invade Poland with no intervention and World War II may not have started.

**Commentary – Level 3**

One developed explanations, two simple explanations - just about reaches Level 3.

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