

# Commentary on candidate evidence

## Candidate 1 – Part A: Historical Issues

The evidence for this candidate was placed within the following mark ranges for each question of this course assessment component.

### **Question 82: “The saviour of his country.” How valid is this view of Churchill’s wartime leadership?**

#### ***Structure (overall structure, introduction and conclusion)***

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 18-19 mark range**. Of the three, the candidate’s Introduction was in the 15-17 mark range, but overall the Structure and Conclusion were in the 18-19 mark range.

In the Conclusion the candidate makes an overall judgement on the issue of Churchill’s wartime leadership.

#### ***Thoroughness/relevance of information and approach***

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 20-22 mark range** because throughout the essay there is evidence of quality research demonstrating width and depth of knowledge. In addition, evidence is linked to points of analysis. The core concepts which relate to the question are given appropriate weight throughout. Well worked paragraphs using relevant evidence are a feature of the response. For example:

*‘Much of Britain’s problems in 1939-40 derived from the lack of political cohesion and Churchill’s efforts to unite parties in a wartime coalition proved successful and vital for the war effort on the Home Front.’*

Also:

*‘By the Tehran Conference in 1943, Churchill became a subordinate, excluded from private talks with Roosevelt and Stalin. He did little to influence and had strategy imposed on him, and so his leadership of Britain became undermined on a world scale.’*

#### ***Analysis, evaluation and line of argument***

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 20-22 mark range** because the answer demonstrates an assured control of the arguments augmented by sound use of historiography:

*‘Paul Addison calls Churchill’s communication with the public and Britain’s Allies, “beyond dispute.” Speeches such as, “Victory at all costs” inspired the public who*

*were war- weary into pushing on. For this truly Churchill was 'a saviour' of British people.'*

### ***Historical sources/Interpretations***

The candidate was awarded credit in the **20-22 mark range** because the candidate demonstrates awareness of differing interpretations amongst significant commentators and an ability to synthesise these interpretations including Paul Addison, Mark Donnelly, John Charmley and Richard Overy.

## Candidate 1 – Part B: Historical Sources

The evidence for this candidate was placed within the following mark ranges for each question of this course assessment component.

### Question 86: How much do Sources A and B reveal about differing interpretations of Chamberlain's resignation in May 1940?

The evidence demonstrates this candidate has achieved **12/16 marks** in their answer to this question.

#### ***Interpretation***

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because the answer repeatedly demonstrates a clear, logical interpretation of the content of the sources, identifying the main and significant view by demonstrating an understanding of the content. For example: *'Source A says, "The dismal failure of the Norway campaign brought matters to a head." Indeed, despite being Churchill's idea, the British Army was ill equipped to capture and hold Narvik, reflecting on Chamberlain's inability to effectively lead the military'*

#### ***Wider contextual development***

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because the answer provides six detailed, developed points of recalled knowledge which is distinct from the information contained in the source, yet is relevant to the specific question asked; for example:

*'The appeasement policy is not stated. Historians believe that because he staked his whole reputation on it working, when it failed he would have to go.'*

Also:

*'The role of Churchill is omitted. He was seen as a creditable alternative to lead a war, and Labour would work with him. Chamberlain had as Attlee says; 'treated Labour like dirt,' and the need for a coalition was clear so Chamberlain was pressured to go.'*

#### ***Historical interpretations***

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the answer features two accurate quotes from recognised historians which are relevant to the question asked. One mark was awarded for:

*'The sources do not include Tony Corfield's interpretation. He believes Chamberlain's refusal to work with the TUC and the Labour Party would see an 'end to Chamberlain's regime' as he would have more opposition than support.'*

**Question 87: Evaluate the usefulness of Source C as evidence of the extent of the success of Allied bombing campaign against Germany during the Second World War.**

The evidence demonstrates this candidate has achieved **9/12 marks** in their answer to this question.

***Provenance***

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because the answer is clearly contextualised. For example:

*'It is less useful because it is by Arthur 'Bomber' Harris. This is because he was in charge of bombing and so will be biased in favour of it being successful.'*

***Interpretation***

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for providing one clear interpretation of a point of evidence from the source. For example:

*'Source C says, "The effect on German morale was extremely serious." This... shows how bombing was successful in exhausting Germans making them less willing to fight.'*

***Wider contextual development***

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because the answer provides five detailed, developed points of recalled knowledge which are distinct from the information contained in the source, yet is relevant to the specific question asked. For example:

*'The source would be more useful had it include how initially bombers were so inaccurate, if they came within 10 miles of the target, it was good. This shows the limits to the early Allied bombing campaign.'*

***Historical interpretations***

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the answer features two accurate quotes from recognised historians which are relevant to the question asked. One mark was awarded for:

*'Historian Stephen Roskill is of the opinion that too much emphasis was put on bombing as nearly 10% of RAF crew failed to return from a mission.'*

**Question 88: How fully does Source D explain how successful the post war Labour Governments (1945-1951) were in creating a 'New Jerusalem'?**

The evidence demonstrates this candidate has achieved **6/12 marks** in their answer to this question.

A successful response should establish the partial nature of the information provided by introducing wider contextual development. Unfortunately this is missing in this response.

***Interpretation***

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for providing two clear interpretations of points of evidence from the source. One mark was awarded for:

*'Source D says 'The government lost no time ... [nationalising] the Bank of England'. By nationalising banks, a 'New Jerusalem' was created by control the economy to help build a welfare state.'*

***Wider contextual development***

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the answer provides two detailed, developed points of recalled knowledge which are distinct from the information contained in the source, yet is relevant to the specific question asked.

One mark was awarded for:

*'The source does not include the National Health Service Act of 1947 where the British people could get free, comprehensive health care to improve their lives.'*

***Historical interpretations***

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the answer features two accurate quotes from recognised historians which are relevant to the question asked.

One mark was awarded for:

*'It does not include the promise of 250,000 homes being built. Roger Eatwell sees this as a failure of Labour as it did not build that many'*