

Commentary on candidate 7 evidence (Field 10)

Title: Was the British bombing offensive worth the costs in men and resources that were invested in it?

Word Count: 4151

Mark Awarded: 30/50

Grade	Criteria	Comments
B	Abstract/Introduction Clarity of structure, areas, issues and line of argument	<p>This comment is about the introduction without the inclusion of the abstract here. Clearly structured, historiographical issues identified at the outset. Relevant functional introduction with main interpretations provided.</p> <p>There are separate chapters which relate to three main relevant factors.</p> <p>A line of argument is provided in the last sentence of the introduction.</p>
B	Structure – conclusion(s)	<p>Useful sub-conclusions at the end of each chapter, however it does not qualitatively make judgements on points raised in the dissertation. For example, the conclusion at the end of the 'Military' chapter states, 'Overall the bombing offensive had an impact on the military.' This is followed by a brief restating of previous views with little attempt at synthesis.</p> <p>The conclusion makes an overall judgement on the issue.</p>
B	Degree of THOROUGHNESS (depth and breadth)	<p>There is an awareness of the pertinent issues surrounding the Allied bombing of Germany. Surprisingly, there is no mention of Arthur Harris, Head of Bomber Command.</p> <p>There are some good details, but large sections of narrative in each factor. The candidate has missed opportunities to explore important issues further. For example, in the 'Military' chapter, the important issue of using the RAF more to nullify the U-Boat threat merits about five lines.</p> <p>Consistently throughout the dissertation the candidate misses opportunities to expand on important factors.</p>
B	Degree of relevance	<p>The factual content links to the title. A chapter is devoted to Military, Economy and Morale.</p>

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B	Degree of ANALYSIS and EVALUATION	There is a sound grasp of the evaluative aims of the question and the candidate tackles it with a fairly sustained analysis.
B	Consideration of Historical sources /interpretations	Familiar with opposing views on the issue. Historians have been used as illustrative points of the main lines of interpretation.
C	Consideration of primary evidence	Churchill and Speer are both quoted by the candidate but their respective significance during the Second World War could have been further explored.
B	Footnoting and Bibliography	Overall, reasonably well done but one author quoted in the dissertation is not listed in the Bibliography. (Geoffrey Wheatcroft referring to Morale). Dimpleby is quoted but not referenced as a footnote or in the Bibliography. However, a consistent system of referencing has been adopted. Overall, the bibliography is somewhat limited in scope.
C	Overall accuracy of approach	Written expression is on the weak side which detracts from some of the evidence provided by the candidate. The dissertation would have benefited from a more thorough editing.