

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

The candidate evidence has achieved **40 out of 50 marks** overall in the dissertation.

The use of historical sources/interpretations and the thoroughness/relevance of information are well done in this dissertation. The section on 'Balance of armed forces', although a small section within the overall dissertation, shows how a candidate can use historians to support and develop an argument. The candidate was awarded credit in the 40-44 mark range because the dissertation consistently demonstrates a sound knowledge and understanding of historians' interpretations and arguments which enhances the evidence used, particularly in relation to both analysis and interpretation of context. For example, in the first paragraph on page 10, the candidate uses Foss and Gerahty to reinforce their argument about the balance of army forces for both sides and then goes on to use Salvado to make a point about the urgency with which both sides searched for international assistance. The candidate then rounds off the paragraph in a way which introduces the next area they are going to look at within the subsection. In the next paragraph, the candidate compares the views of two historians (Forrest and Payne) in order to reinforce a point and expand upon it.

In this section, the candidate also shows why they were able to secure a mark in the 40-44 mark range for thoroughness/relevance of information and approach. This is because the dissertation demonstrates a consistent width and depth of research which reflects a formidable grasp of the relevant content. The candidate covers a range of knowledge and ideas within this section and not at a superficial level. This shows how candidates are able to achieve both width and depth, while remaining concise and keeping control of the argument.

There is also a good use of conclusions to end the section which both brings together the argument developed and ties the section to the question and the overall line of argument.