

Candidate 2 – Part A: Historical Issues

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

Question 9: “King John failed as he lacked sufficient strength of character to stand up to Edward I.”

How valid is this view of King John’s reign?

Introduction

The candidate was recognised as working between the **13-14 mark range** because:

- ◆ they have provided a functional introduction
- ◆ they failed to establish the main interpretations, historical debate or establish a line of argument which would have allowed them to move up the grid

Thoroughness/relevance of information and approach

The candidate was recognised as working within the **20-22 mark range** because:

- ◆ there is clear evidence in the detail of their information of a wide range of reading
- ◆ they demonstrate considerable width and depth of knowledge on the topic
- ◆ the evidence and analysis are linked throughout the answer

Regarding the authority and character of John as King, the candidate noted that *‘John tried to govern his kingdom by clearing a backlog of legal cases and inviting French merchants to trade and boost Scotland’s economy. This shows John did not just act when Edward told him to and he did try to take charge of his kingdom, continuing on from the work of his predecessor Alexander III. John looked to bring the west under greater control through the creation of sheriffdoms. This action suggests John understood the work expected of him as king and had some understanding of the way he could use government to extend his authority.’*

Historical sources/interpretations

The candidate was recognised as working within the **20-22 mark range** because:

- ◆ there is a sound knowledge of historians’ interpretations and arguments provided throughout the candidates’ response
- ◆ there is an awareness of variations between interpretations, highlighting how historians can hold differing views on similar events

For example: *‘John may have lacked the strength of character to refuse to do homage directly but he was strong enough to take a stand diplomatically. However, GWS Barrow believes that this was the community of the realm and not John taking a stand once again suggesting even the nobility saw John’s character as a problem. Meanwhile Michael Penman believes John’s links to France would have meant he was involved in the treaty.’*

Question 12: “The stubbornness of Edward II was the most important obstacle to lasting peace between Scotland and England between 1314 and 1323.”

How valid is this view?

Introduction

The candidate was recognised as working between the **18-19 mark range** because:

- ◆ they have given some basic context for the issue being discussed
- ◆ they have established a clear line of argument for their essay
- ◆ they have prioritised their factors
- ◆ however, had they looked at the historical debate surrounding this issue it would have allowed them to move up the grid

Conclusion

The candidate was recognised as working within the **18-19 mark range** because:

- ◆ they come to a clear overall decision regarding the question
- ◆ they do provide some attempt to evaluate the key issues
- ◆ however, they needed to improve the synthesis and evaluation of key issues in order to move up the grid

Analysis, evaluation and line of argument

The candidate was recognised as working within the **20-22 mark range** because:

- ◆ the candidate provides a very effective and consistent analysis controlled throughout their essay

Regarding reasons why Scotland and England could not come to a peace settlement under King Robert and King Edward II, the candidate stated: *‘In 1315 it was agreed that should Bruce fail to have a son his brother would be made heir and then Marjorie and her descendants. Bruce’s preoccupation with the succession problem in his own kingdom distracted him from seeking peace and he may have seen the securing of his dynasty as more important. Ranald Nicholson suggests that ‘Bruce’s cause was Bruce’ meaning he may have put his own dynastic ambitions before the cause of independence and peace. The problem was deepened and peace made even more unlikely as by 1318 both Bruce’s brother and daughter were dead meaning a new tailzie had to be agreed... The ultimate weakness of Bruce’s position as highlighted by the succession problem can be seen as the most important obstacle to peace from a Scottish point of view meaning it is invalid to solely blame the continuation of the war on Edward II.’*

Concerning the problems faced by the English over their Scottish campaigns, the candidate stated: *‘Edward II may have been unmoved in his position on overlordship but many of his nobles had begun to lose interest in the Scottish war. Bannockburn had been a humiliating defeat which left many unhappy with*

Edward's leadership and unwilling to continue to support the war. Steve Boardman believes that had they wanted to an English force could have easily undone the effects of Bannockburn. However, failure to do so would suggest that Edward found his military growing weaker as nobles became less willing to aid him. Therefore, the English were unable to force a decisive victory in battle but Edward's stubbornness meant he would not discuss peace meaning an end to the war and sustained peace was made impossible. The war had also taken its toll on the English economy meaning Edward could not continue to pour money into his war. Therefore, it can be seen as valid to say a combination of stubbornness and weakness made Edward II the main obstacle to peace.'

Thoroughness/relevance of information and approach

The candidate was recognised as working within the **20-22 mark range** because:

- ◆ there is clear evidence in the detail of their information of a wide range of reading
- ◆ they demonstrate considerable width and depth of knowledge on the topic
- ◆ the evidence and analysis are linked throughout the answer

Regarding the relationship between King Robert and King Edward II, the candidate stated that *'Edward made his feelings regarding peace clear in the way he reacted to Andrew Harclay making peace with Bruce. Harclay was the Earl of Carlisle which had been a target for Scottish raids in the north of England. In 1327 he agreed to enter peace with Bruce agreeing to a deal in which Scotland would be recognized as a free and separate kingdom and Edward would agree within a year. However, the deal was made without Edward's approval and as a result he had Harclay executed. This made clear that he had no intentions of making peace.'*

Historical sources/interpretations

The candidate was recognised as working within the **20-22 mark range** because:

- ◆ there is a sound knowledge of historians' interpretations and arguments provided throughout the candidates' response

For example: *'Bruce's preoccupation with the succession problem in his own kingdom distracted him from seeking peace and he may have seen the security of his dynasty as more important. Ranald Nicholson suggests that 'Bruce's cause was Bruce', meaning he may have put his own dynastic ambitions before the cause of independence and peace.'*

And also: *'The papacy had excommunicated Robert for the 1306 murder of John Comyn in a church. Fiona Watson believes Bruce never fully overcame his usurper status and this may have prevented peace as Edward was unwilling to negotiate with someone who was excommunicated.'*

Candidate 2 – Part B: Historical Sources

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

Question 14: How fully does Source A explain the approach taken by Edward I to increase his influence over Scotland between 1286 and 1292?

Wider contextual development

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** within their overall mark for this question because they provided clear, detailed points of information which provided additional information, not in the source, about the approach taken by Edward to increase his influence over Scotland.

'Edward also refused to recognise the Guardians resistance to overlordship by asking the claimants to the throne to recognise him meaning he exploited the desire of some to be king [wider contextual development] The source also fails to discuss how Edward dragged the process on for two years becoming more and more comfortable in a position of influence [wider contextual development]. He considered all the claimants even though up to 7 were illegitimate with little chance of really taking the throne.' [wider contextual development]

Historical interpretations

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** within their overall mark for this question because they provided an historian's opinion in support of the question which did not merely repeat a point of interpretation or wider contextual development, but added to the overall argument in relation to the approach taken by Edward to increase his influence over Scotland.

Question 15: Evaluate the usefulness of Source B as evidence of the effectiveness of William Wallace's leadership.

Provenance

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** within their overall mark for this question because it provides a clear evaluation of the usefulness of the authorship of this source and their access to accurate and relevant information when compiling their account.

Question 16: How much do Sources C and D reveal about differing interpretations of the means by which King Robert governed Scotland?

Interpretations

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** within their overall mark for this question because they selected relevant information from inside the first source and explained the link between that information and the question: *'Source C states Bruce 'issued a number of laws for the order and defence of the kingdom'. Many of the laws looked to protect people from the effects of war and secure stability.*

Bruce made it clear to his nobles they were to use the courts, not physical force, to solve disputes in an attempt to retain stability and prevent further conflict [1 mark]. The 1315 agreement made Bruce's daughter next in line but she too had died, after giving birth to Robert Stewart. This suggests that Bruce tried to govern the kingdom by securing his dynasty [1 mark]. Finally the source states 'Robert also felt it necessary to issue reactionary laws against the spreading of sedition and rumour against the king'. Bruce may have felt this necessary because his rivals, the Comyn family, were still active within Scotland and the English court' [1 mark].

The candidate was awarded another 3 marks within their overall mark for this question – 2 marks for **interpretation** and 1 for **wider contextual development** because they also selected relevant information from inside the other source and explained the link between that information and the question. In the latter example, the source evidence was analysed by providing additional contextual information to highlight the point being made: 'Source D states that 'there was a number of crucial declarations of support by the community of the realm'. This suggests Bruce's government was inclusive and widely supported [1 mark]. The source then states 'there were successful forfeitures and an act of disinheritance'. This refers to the statute of Cambuskenneth in 1314 [1 mark] in which Bruce made clear those with English and Scottish lands were to join him and give up their English lands or be disinherited of those in Scotland.' [wider contextual development]

Historical interpretations

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** within their overall mark for this question because they provided an historian's opinion to counter the point made in the source regarding the levels of support Bruce could rely on while governing Scotland. This historian's view was relevant to the question and did not merely repeat a point of interpretation or wider contextual development, but added to the overall argument in relation to the approach taken by Edward to increase his influence over Scotland: 'Many of Bruce's actions to govern the kingdom shows he was concerned about the threat from the disinherited. Michael Penman believes that levels of support for Bruce have been exaggerated throughout his reign, meaning he governed by means of caution.'