

Commentary on candidate 5 evidence (Field 4)

Title: What factors best explain the growth of the abolitionist movement within America up to 1860?

Word Count: 4372

Mark Awarded: 42/50

Grade	Criteria	Comments
A	Abstract/introduction Clarity of structure, areas, issues and line of argument	The abstract is not part of this example. A broad and sound context to the debate is established. There is a consideration of the debate and line of argument to be addressed, however the outline of the issues to be considered in each chapter has potential to be more clearly outlined.
A+	Structure – conclusion(s)	A substantial final conclusion that provides a very effective and detailed judgement. The line of argument and the prioritisation of the issues is very thorough.
A+	Degree of THOROUGHNESS (depth and breadth)	Considerable width and depth which is particularly evident in chapters 1-3. The depth of the argument is not as strong in the final chapter as the candidate tries to achieve a little too much width. Nevertheless, there is a confident use and delivery of the arguments across the five chapters.
A+	Degree of relevance	Clear and relevant information employed, selected well and used to enhance the analysis and evaluation.
A+	Degree of ANALYSIS and EVALUATION	Very assured and consistent. The analysis is very well balanced, well developed and retains a clear focus on the question throughout. The candidate makes excellent use of sub-conclusions and these are highly effective in prioritising the arguments and issues. On occasion, the candidate can be a little too dismissive of some of the arguments.
A	Consideration of Historical sources /interpretations	Although not extensive, the historians have been well used to enhance and advance the line of argument. Historians tend to be largely illustrative in their use however, with potential for greater engagement.
A	Consideration of primary evidence	Page 7 onwards detailed analysis of the impact of ' <i>The Liberator</i> '.
A	Footnoting and Bibliography	On the whole, the sources have been accurately referenced.
	Overall accuracy of approach	A strong piece of work based on considerable reading. The argument is balanced and flows fluently with clearly established links between the sections. The highly effective use of a sub-conclusion maintains a sharp focus

Grade	Criteria	Comments
		on the question and allows the candidate to advance the line of argument evenly over five chapters.