

# Commentary on candidate evidence

## Candidate 1

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each element of the coursework assessment task.

**Dissertation title: How far can the outbreak of the American Civil War be attributed to a single cause?**

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

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 35-39 mark range**.

#### Introduction

There is a relevant introduction (with the main interpretations prioritised) which looks at the debate and a suggested line of argument.

#### Overall structure

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 40-44 mark range** because there is a well-defined structure displaying a very confident grasp of the demands of the question. This is notable throughout the dissertation which has been well planned allowing the line of argument to evolve fluently.

#### Conclusion

The conclusion provides a perceptive assessment of the questions making a clear judgement based upon synthesis and evaluation of the key issues and points developed in the main analysis of the dissertation. The final paragraph of the dissertation is particularly effective in this regard.

### Thoroughness/ relevance of information and approach

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 40-44 mark range** because there is clear evidence of width and depth of research in the presentation of the issues. The candidate's evidence is clearly linked to the points of analysis and evaluation. This is evident in assessing the importance of the slave debate in heightening tensions between North and South in the ante-bellum period.

### Analysis, evaluation and line of argument

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 40-44 mark range** because the dissertation demonstrates a firm grasp of the evaluative aims of the question and is very assured and consistently in control of the arguments and issues. The candidate makes excellent use of sub conclusions to link the 'chapters' together, allowing the argument to flow fluently towards the final conclusion. This is particularly evident in chapter one in surmising the importance of slavery as a cause of the civil war.

### **Historical sources/interpretations**

The candidate was awarded **credit in the 40-44 mark** range because the dissertation demonstrates a sound knowledge and understanding of historians' interpretations and arguments. These are used consistently throughout the dissertation to enhance the depth and quality of the overall argument. This is evident in assessing the similarities between North and South in the ante bellum period. The candidate integrates a range of viewpoints into a concise yet effective paragraph. This demonstrates an ability to compare and contrast interpretations of a primary and secondary nature.

The candidate has also demonstrated their wide range of reading in an extensive bibliography which refers to research of a primary and secondary nature.