

SOURCE QUESTIONS - GOLDEN GUIDE:



GENERAL INFORMATION:

TIME:

Source questions will only appear in section 1 of the final exam. You should look to spend a maximum of an hour on the source questions. This hour is best split further into 15 minutes reading, highlighting and interpreting the sources and questions and 15 minutes to answer each of the three questions. This approach will give you plenty time to write your answers and ensure that you fully understand the sources and questions before starting your answer

QUESTIONS & MARKS:

There are 3 different types of question and one of each will always be asked in the exam:

□ **Source Evaluation or 'How Useful' questions**

- These will always ask you to '*Evaluate the usefulness of source A as evidence of...*'
- These will always be worth 6 marks
- In order to answer these questions you need to make judgements on:
 - the origin & possible purpose of the source;
 - the content of the source;
 - information which the source has failed to include (recalled knowledge).

□ **'How Fully' questions**

- These will always ask '*How fully does source B explain...*'
- These will always be worth 9 marks
- In order to answer these questions you need to:
 - Explain 3 points made by the source that are relevant to the question
 - Explain 7 points of recalled knowledge not included in the source.

□ **Source Comparison questions**

- These will always ask you to '*Compare the views of sources C and D about...*'
- These will always be worth 5 marks
- In order to answer these questions you need to :
 - Make 4 direct comparisons with references from both sources
 - Make an overall comparison between the two sources

SOURCES:

There will always be four sources in an exam. 2 to answer the comparison question, one source for a 'how useful' and one for a 'how fully' question. These sources will always be a mixture of primary and secondary sources. There is no particular order in which the questions will appear.

SOURCE EVALUATION OR 'HOW USEFUL' QUESTIONS:

Aim:

- To understand how to answer '**How useful**' questions.

'How useful' questions will always begin with the phrase 'Evaluate the usefulness of Source A for...'
These questions will always be worth 6 marks:

- Up to 4 marks for evaluative comments relating to the **provenance** of the source (purpose, author, type of source and the timing of the source).
- Up to 2 marks for evaluative comments relating to the **content** of the source.
- Up to 2 marks for highlighting points of **recall** which the source has missed out.

GOLDEN RULES:

1. Always start your answer by stating that the source is partly/relatively/quite useful for investigation the topic or event of the question.
2. Use the **provenance** to identify the purpose, author, type & timing of the source.
 - Why was the source produced?
 - Explain what is useful or less useful about the author e.g. *are they likely to have a biased viewpoint? Were they an eyewitness to events? Are they likely to be well informed about the event?*
 - Explain what is useful or less useful about the type of source e.g. *a letter home may be censored, a diary entry may make the author look good, a photo is likely to be accurate but could be staged.*
 - Explain what is useful or less useful about the timing of the source e.g. *was it written close to the events in question? Was it produced from memory a long time after the event? Was it produced from research with the benefit of hindsight?*
3. Select two pieces of information from the source which show it to be accurate or exaggerated. It is important to link these to your own knowledge.
4. Provide two pieces of recalled knowledge to show that the source is not useful in providing all the facts about the event.

Example answer: '**Evaluate the usefulness of Source A as evidence of the experience of the Scots on the Western Front**'

Source A is relatively useful as evidence of the experience of Scots on the Western Front, however, it has its limitations. The source was written by Major F Bewsher who had first-hand experience of fighting on the Western Front. However the source may be less useful as he may have a biased viewpoint particularly as he was a Major and so in charge of the division. The source comes from his memoirs which again could make it less useful as he may exaggerate his own role or the abilities of his troops. Although a primary source, it was produced a few years after fighting had finished so some details may have been exaggerated or forgotten over time. The source was produced to share his experiences of conflict on the Western Front.

The source is useful as it tells us that the Germans feared Scottish soldiers. We know this to be true as they referred to them as 'devils in skirts'. The Source is less useful however, when it states the division were a 'highly perfected fighting machine' this is likely to be an exaggeration by the major to make himself look superior.

The source is less useful as it fails to mention other important aspects of the experiences of Scots on the Western Front. For example it does not reflect the harsh conditions soldiers would have faced in the trenches such as trench foot and lice. The source also fails to give details about earlier battles, such as the Battle of Loos which had a significant impact on Scotland because of the large numbers of Scots who died there.

'HOW FULLY QUESTIONS:

Aim:

- To understand how to answer '**How fully**' questions.

'These questions are easy to spot as they always begin 'How fully does source A ...' These questions will always be worth 9 marks:

- Up to 3 marks for interpreting and explaining **content** of the source relevant to the question.
- Up to 7 marks for explaining relevant **recall** which the source has missed out.

GOLDEN RULES:

1. The secret of success is to write a balanced answer. Start by stating that the source partly illustrates/explains/describes/gives evidence of the topic in question.
2. Begin to evaluate the source. 'The first point made by the source is...' explain what the point being made by the source is to develop your answer. Do this three times.
3. Introduce your recalled knowledge. 'On the other hand, the source does not cover all the points relevant to the topic. For example, it does not deal with...'
 - Make sure the recall you include is relevant to the question.
 - Points of recall can be developed from the source i.e. speak about something mentioned by the source but in greater detail.
 - You can also include new issues/factors/events that are not mentioned in the source. These must be relevant to the question.
4. Add a one sentence conclusion to your answer.

Example answer: How fully does source D explain the impact of the war on Scotland's economy?

The source partly explains the impact of the war on Scotland's economy. The first point made by the source is that the many changes to the Scottish economy caused by the First World War had proven to be only temporary. This is demonstrated by the 'boom in the jute industry' which did not last after 1918 as jute was no longer needed in such quantities. The source also describes how 'the balance of world-wide trade was shifted against Scottish shipbuilders' due to increased competition and increased production across the globe. Finally, the source mentions that Scottish textile manufacturers lost some of their most important markets such as India.

On the other hand, the source fails to mention several points which illustrate the difficulties faced by Scotland's economy after 1918. For example, during the war Scottish mines were nationalised, and miners received good wages. However, after the war the mines were returned to their previous owners who were reluctant to invest in their businesses. This combined with foreign competition lead to a decline in the mining industry. Scotland's farming industry also faced difficulties in 1918. New technology benefitted larger farms but in Scotland the lack of arable land made farming difficult.

The source fails to explain how the end of the war had a negative impact on Scotland's shipbuilding industry. The Navy cancelled the 'cost plus' system and returned to competitive tendering which reduced demand for ships. In turn this also affected orders for steel, demonstrating how the Scottish economy's reliance on a narrow base of heavy industries faced significant difficulties after 1918.

Furthermore, the source fails to expand adequately on the problems faced by the Jute industry. New factories near Calcutta and in the Far East took away Dundee's trade. Another point which the source fails to develop is the fact that the war affected the ability of Scotland to trade. The loss of foreign markets had a long term effect on Scotland's economy after 1918.

Overall, the source gives a fairly good illustration of the economic difficulties facing Scotland after 1918, but lacks specific detail in some areas.

SOURCE COMPARISON QUESTIONS:

Aim:

- To understand how to answer '**source comparison**' questions.

These questions will always ask you to '*Compare the views of sources A & B on...*' These questions will always be worth 5 marks:

- Up to 4 marks for individual comparisons supported by references to the sources.
- Up to 2 marks for a general overall comparison of the sources.

GOLDEN RULES:

1. Introduce your answer by stating that the sources mostly agree or disagree about the issue or event in question.
2. Compare the sources in detail.
 - Provide at least 4 direct comparisons that are relevant and connected to each other.
 - Explain what the sources agree or disagree on, and then provide evidence for this from the sources.
 - If possible introduce the evidence by the name of the author, rather than saying 'Source B says...'
 - Remember the sources will not always completely agree or disagree on a topic. Usually you will have to identify points of agreement **AND** disagreement.
3. Finish your answer with an overall comparison of the two sources. You do not need to provide references for this.

Example answer: '**Compare the views of Sources A & B about the events of Red Clydeside in 1919.**'

Sources A & B mostly agree about the events of Red Clydeside in 1919. For example, the sources agree that the police charge on the protestors in George Square. Source A explains that police forcibly dispersed the crowd with their batons drawn. Ferguson agrees with this in Source B stating 'police charged with batons raised' to clear the way. The sources also agree about the reaction of the strike leaders. Source A describes Willie Gallacher 'urging the crowd to disperse peacefully'. Ferguson makes a similar point, explaining Gallacher's reaction to the charge by the police was to try and get the crowd to disperse. The sources also agree that Davie Kirkwood was attacked by the police. Ferguson describes Kirkwood being 'beaten to the ground by police'. Whilst Source A states that he was thrown to the ground during a police attack. However, the sources disagree on whether or not the 'riot' was planned. Ferguson believes that police 'misread' the situation causing violence to erupt. However, Source A takes a more critical stance, stating that the attack on the protestors was 'deliberately planned and ordered'.

Overall, sources A & B are in general agreement about the actions of the police and the reactions of protest leaders. However, they disagree on whether or not attack by the police was planned.