

External markbands—paper 3 (HL)

Marks	Level descriptor
0	Response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–3	<p>There is little understanding of the demands of the question. The response is poorly structured or, where there is a recognizable essay structure, there is minimal focus on the task.</p> <p>Little knowledge is present. Where specific examples are referred to, they are factually incorrect, irrelevant or vague.</p> <p>The response contains little or no critical analysis. It may consist mostly of generalizations and poorly substantiated assertions.</p>
4–6	<p>The response indicates some understanding of the demands of the question. While there may be an attempt to follow a structured approach, the response lacks clarity and coherence.</p> <p>Knowledge is demonstrated but lacks accuracy and relevance. There is a superficial understanding of historical context. The answer makes use of specific examples, although these may be vague or lack relevance.</p> <p>There is some limited analysis, but the response is primarily narrative/descriptive in nature, rather than analytical.</p>
7–9	<p>The response indicates an understanding of the demands of the question, but these demands are only partially addressed. There is an attempt to follow a structured approach.</p> <p>Knowledge is mostly accurate and relevant. Events are generally placed in their historical context. Examples used are appropriate and relevant.</p> <p>The response moves beyond description to include some analysis or critical commentary, but this is not sustained.</p>
10–12	<p>The demands of the question are understood and addressed. Answers are generally well structured and organized, although there may be some repetition or lack of clarity in places.</p> <p>Knowledge is accurate and relevant. Events are placed in their historical context, and there is a clear understanding of historical concepts. Examples used are appropriate and relevant, and are used to support the analysis/evaluation.</p> <p>Arguments are mainly clear and coherent. There is some awareness and evaluation of different perspectives.</p> <p>The response contains critical analysis. Most of the main points are substantiated, and the response argues to a consistent conclusion.</p>

Marks	Level descriptor
13–15	<p>Responses are clearly focused, showing a high degree of awareness of the demands and implications of the question. Answers are well structured, balanced and effectively organized.</p> <p>Knowledge is detailed, accurate and relevant. Events are placed in their historical context, and there is a clear understanding of historical concepts. Examples used are appropriate and relevant, and are used effectively to support the analysis/evaluation.</p> <p>Arguments are clear and coherent. There is evaluation of different perspectives, and this evaluation is integrated effectively into the answer.</p> <p>The answer contains well-developed critical analysis. All, or nearly all, of the main points are substantiated, and the response argues to a reasoned conclusion.</p>