

Writing essays in GCSE / IGCSE History

Sample Markscheme

L1	General points; little evidence of background knowledge from classroom studies
L2	One-sided answer; factual details about one factor described
L3	One-sided answer; role of one factor explained OR Multi-causal answer; factual details about several factors described
L4	L4 Multi-causal answer; role of several factors explained, but in isolation
L5	Multi-causal answer; role of several factors explained, and linked together

Sample Questions

To what extent was appeasement responsible for World War Two?

How far do you agree that Hitler's main instrument of control was terror?

How successful was the League of Nations before World War Two?

Explain how the following contributed to German hatred of Versailles:

- Reparations
- Military restrictions
- Loss of territory

Explain how the following contributed to the success of German foreign policy in the 1930's:

- Hitler's leadership
- The weaknesses of the League of Nations
- The policy of appeasement

Explain how the following contributed to the USA's failure to win the Vietnam War:

- Military tactics of the North Vietnamese
- Attitudes of the people in South Vietnam
- Public opinion in the USA

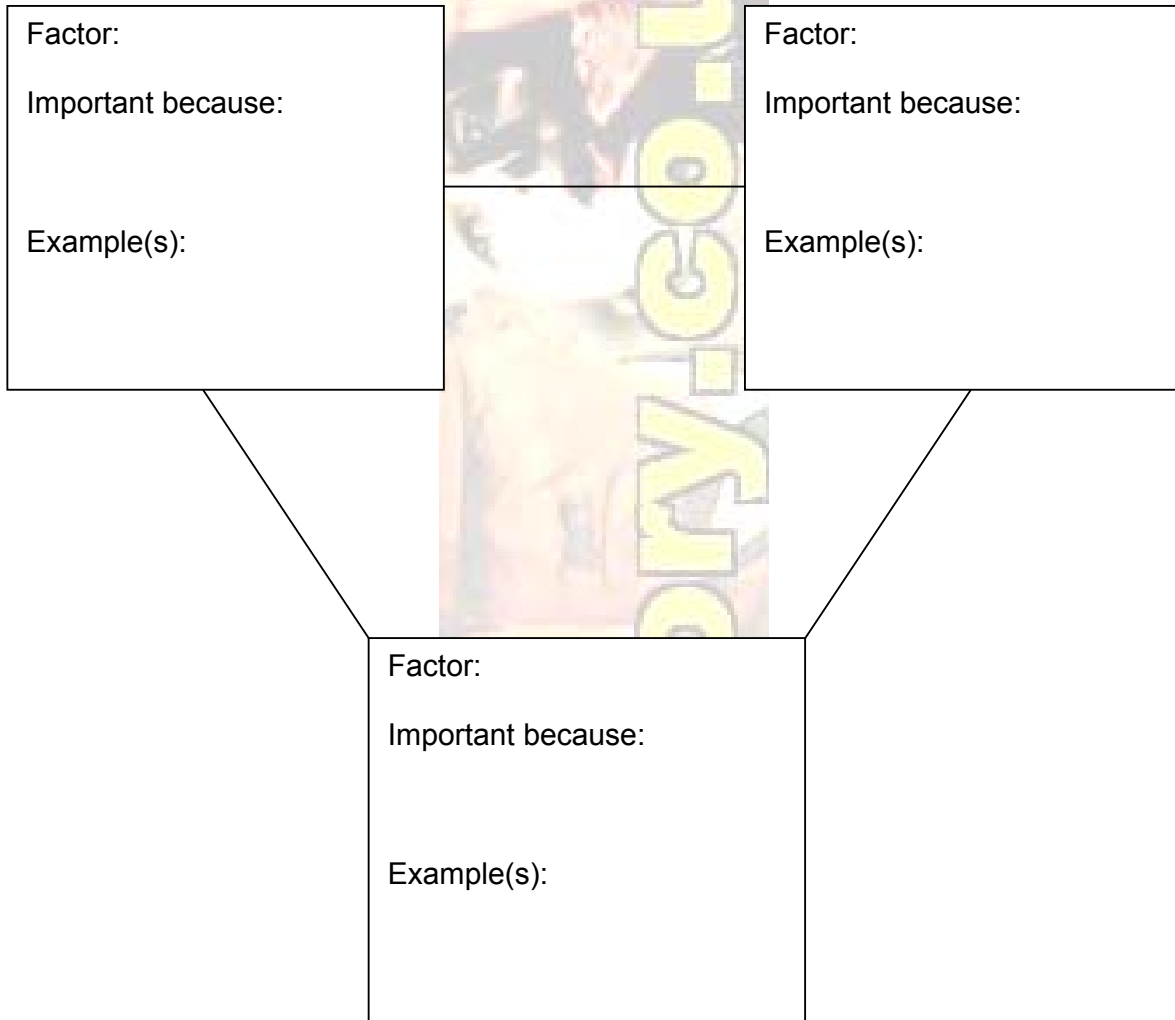
Table approach

Name of factor	Reason linked to previous factor	Reason described	Reason explained
1.			
2.			
3.			

Assess Questions (standard approach): 20 minutes

Planning the essay: 5 minutes

1. Put a few bullet points in each of the three boxes in the diagram below.
2. Now link them together by turning two connecting lines into arrows.
3. Across each arrow, write a brief explanation of how one factor helped to create / inflate a second.



Writing the essay: 15 minutes

Paragraph A: Introduction

Produce a brief introduction restating the question and outlining that you will aim to show how all three factors acting together helped to contribute.

Paragraph B: Factor 1

The first factor should be one with no arrows leading to it. Structure this along the lines of:

- [Factor 1] was important because [important because].
- For example, ... [example(s)].

Paragraph C: Factor 2

Your second factor should be one which is connected by an arrow to the first. Structure this along the lines of:

- [Factor 2] was important because [important because].
- For example, ... [example(s)].

Paragraph C: Factor 3

- [Factor 3] was important because [important because].
- For example, ... [example(s)].

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Say that although these factors contributed individually, they also connect together.
- Use the connecting statements over the arrows to illustrate your point.
- End by saying whether the factors are therefore of equal importance or whether they can be prioritised.

Assess Questions (advanced approach): 20 minutes

Planning the essay: 5 minutes

1. Put a few bullet points in each of the three boxes in the diagram below.
2. Now link them together by turning two connecting lines into arrows.
3. Across each arrow, write a brief explanation of how one factor helped to create / inflate a second.

Writing the essay: 15 minutes

Paragraph A: Introduction

Produce a brief introduction restating the question and outlining that you will aim to show how all three factors acting together helped to contribute.

Paragraph B: Factor 1

The first factor should be one with no arrows leading to it. Structure this along the lines of:

- [Factor 1] was important because [important because].
- For example, ... [3 key facts].

Paragraph C: Factor 2

Your second factor should be one which is connected by an arrow to the first. Structure this along the lines of:

- [Factor 2] connects to [Factor 1] because.... [statement along arrow].
- This factor was important because... [important because].
- For example, ... [3 key facts].

Paragraph C: Factor 3

Your final factor should follow a similar format. Structure it along the lines of:

- [Factor 3] connects to [Factor 2] because.... [statement along arrow].
- This factor was important because... [important because].
- For example, ... [3 key facts].

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

Round off by summarising how all the factors link together. Do this by using the linking statements over the arrows.

