

Dear Team Leaders and Examiners,

Thank you for accepting to mark the History Internal Assessment component for the May 2020 session. The standardization process has now been completed and the qualification scripts are available. We recommend that you carefully study the practice scripts and the annotations explaining how marks were awarded before you start qualification.

If you have any questions about either the marking criteria or the marking instructions, please contact your Team Leader. If you experience difficulties accessing and downloading the scripts, please contact emarking@ibo.org

Please comply with the following deadlines to ensure candidates' results may be issued on time:

20 th April	Marking is live. Practice and qualification responses are available
21 st April	Practice deadline
23 rd April	Qualification deadline
13 th May	50% of your initial marking target to be completed
1 st June	Deadline to complete your marking target

No marks are awarded for the bibliography or referencing but IF THERE IS NO BIBLIOGRAPHY **and/or** NO REFERENCING, you should raise an exception for the IA in question so that it can be investigated whether there has been a breach to academic honesty. Any script that you consider may have breached the academic policy for this or any other reason should be raised as an exception under "suspicion of malpractice".

Although, all IAs are being marked this session, they are not going to be marked like script components. Essentially, each piece is being individually moderated. Teacher comments and marks ARE to be considered. In live marking the screen may appear slightly different for most samples, for those of you with previous IA examining experience. This is due to changes requested by the IB for all newly uploaded and complete samples and will appear on the left-hand side of the screen. **All newly uploaded work will have an additional document containing teacher marks and comments (in some cases the teacher marks and comments may also be written on the work itself). After reviewing the candidate's work, review the teacher's marks and comments. Taking account of the additional information, decide if the teacher's marks are already in line with the required standard or whether you need to adjust them.**

You are strongly advised to write on-page and off-page comments. It is more important than ever that an explanation of the marks be given by ALL examiners, particularly if teacher marks have been adjusted. Please ensure that every page has an annotation at least and I recommend using the tick/check "correct point" annotation to mark relevant points. Please feel free to use onscreen comments and every criterion/section would benefit from a short, summative sentence using language from the markbands. We want to ensure that marks awarded are done so validly, with some explanation to schools. The annotations include a **"SEEN"** stamp you can use on those pages that do not need marking comments (for example, a bibliography).

If a section of the IA has not been attempted, please use **"NR"** rather than 0. If there is a section which does not meet any of the requirements of the criteria, then award 0.

INTERPRETATION OF CRITERIA

A best-fit approach means that compensation should be made when a piece of work matches different aspects of a criterion at different levels. The mark awarded should be one that most fairly reflects the balance of achievement against the criterion. It is not necessary for every single aspect of a level descriptor to be met for that mark to be awarded. When there are two or more marks available within a markband, moderators should accept the upper marks if the candidate's work demonstrates the qualities described to a great extent.

SECTION A

- The research topic must be clearly framed as a question (History Guide, p. 86).
- The section must either state the research question as a heading or in the text of the section. However, accept the inclusion of a research question on the title page of the IA. If the research question stated in the cover sheet and within Section A differ, please use the research question in A to assess the investigation.
- The section should include an evaluation of the value and limitations of two sources (origins, purpose and content).
- For some sources, you may need to check that the claims made about their origins and purpose are valid.
- The sources' relevance to the investigation should be included.

SECTION B

- The section must contain critical analysis of the evidence presented with a clear focus on the research question.
- Although the markbands make reference to the inclusion of different perspectives, it may not always be appropriate to include historiography. For example, an investigation on a local history topic is unlikely to elicit significant historiographical debate and candidates should not be penalised. Also, for some questions phrased as "To what extent...", perspectives may also include a range of issues assessed to answer the research question. When assessing perspectives, consider whether the candidate is presenting a balanced argument.
- The sources evaluated in A do not necessarily have to be referred in B.
- The conclusion to the investigation is now integral to Section B. Investigations that do not contain a conclusion are unlikely to go above the 7-9 markband.

SECTION C

- The aim of this section is for candidates to demonstrate what they have learned about the methods and challenges facing historians (i.e. "doing History").
- This section is **NOT** about the candidates' personal experience or about the reasons why the topic was chosen.
- The section should focus on three main aspects:
 - Methods used by historians
 - Awareness of challenges **and/or** limitations of the methods used by historians
 - Connection between reflection and the investigation

With best wishes,

María de la Paz Estevez (IA Principal Examiner)