



Examiners' Report June 2023

GCE History 9HI0 2G

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Introduction

It was pleasing to see candidates able to engage effectively across the ability range with A Level paper 2A, which deals with Option 2G.1: The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46 and Option 2G.2: Spain, 1930–78: republicanism, Francoism and the re-establishment of democracy.

The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory question that is based on two linked sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts – cause, consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, and significance. Candidates appeared to organise their time effectively and there was very little evidence of candidates being unable to attempt both answers within the time allocated. A minority of scripts continue to pose some problems for examiners with a lack of legibility of handwriting; examiners are only able to give credit for what they can read.

In Section A, the strongest answers were able to develop reasoned and supported inferences based on the sources. Such responses evaluated the sources thoroughly in relation to the demands of the enquiry on the basis of both the contextual knowledge that was on offer and through an awareness of the nature, origin and purpose of the source. It is disappointing to note that a number of candidates talked in general terms rather than explicitly addressing the focus of the enquiry. This question requires candidates to use the sources ‘together’. It was pleasing to see that candidates had taken on board the advice offered last summer and relatively few are now attempting to use the sources ‘together’ throughout the entirety of the answer, which last year led to some problems for candidates. Some candidates used their contextual knowledge to continue to describe events in great detail, rather than using it to illuminate and to discuss the sources. This sometimes resulted in candidates not dealing with the sources adequately. In other cases, candidates might offer up little or no contextual knowledge to support their arguments and analysis. These were not always weaker candidates; some answers were seen that were strong in bullet points 1 and 3 of the mark scheme but had very little that could be credited for bullet point 2. The impact of this was to hold down the marks that were achievable in this question.

In section B, it was clear that most candidates had a secure knowledge base, but this was not always effectively used to address the specific focus of the questions posed. Stronger answers clearly understood the importance of identifying the appropriate second order concept that was being targeted by the question. Weaker candidates either engaged in a narrative approach that made links to the question in the conclusion or alternatively shaped their responses analytically but lacked sufficient substance and accurate contextual knowledge to support the arguments that they were making. More responses were seen this summer that had a tendency to only deal with one side of an argument; some of these were a sophisticated analysis of that one side, showing the links between the issues that were raised, but it is essential that candidates acknowledge the existence of a debate, where appropriate. Candidates are encouraged to ensure that they take the most appropriate approach to answering a question. Candidates should always aim to show the links between the issues raised, not merely to present a list of factors. Candidates need to be aware of the chronological parameters of questions and to ensure that they write across the chronology. Equally, the evidence that is presented should come from within the timeframe of the chronology of the question. It was disappointing this summer to note that a number of candidates seemed to have only a weak grasp on the timing of key events.

The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

Question 1

Option 2.1 is the most popular option with approximately 85 per cent of candidates entered for this option. This question enjoyed the full range of responses with the majority of candidates achieving at least level 3 and low level four, and there were also some extremely good answers which fully utilised the sources establishing valid criteria to reach a judgement based on weighing the evidence and hence achieved higher level four and secure level 5.

Most candidates were able to comprehend the sources and make relevant selections to comment on the reasons for Mussolini's popularity in the years 1925-40. The better responses developed reasoned inferences and interrogated the sources to reach judgements about the validity of claims about the reasons for Mussolini's popularity. Such candidates used Churchill's claims in Source 1 about the improving economic situation to infer that Mussolini delivered better living standards for the Italians and hence was popular, and his references to overcoming the threat of Bolshevism to infer that Mussolini was able to both play upon and address the fears of the Italian elites and middle class of the threat of communist revolution. Some very perceptive candidates used their contextual knowledge to interrogate these claims and commented that this was less likely to make the working class warm to Mussolini as many had previously supported the PSI, but fascist policies such as the introduction of the OND did play a role in winning at least some support and hence making Mussolini personally popular. This line of reasoning from Source 1 enabled many candidates to access levels 4 and 5 of bullet point 2 by demonstrating a real appreciation of the values and concerns of the society from which the source was drawn. Similarly, in using Source 2, many candidates were able to infer the importance of the Cult of il Duce in creating Mussolini to be a god-like figure and making him popular as well as the importance of nationalism in creating support for Mussolini's focus on building and empire. It is important that candidates do go beyond comprehension and description of the source to access the higher levels.

Most candidates were able to make use of the captions to the sources and their tone and content to evaluate the material. Effective answers considered Churchill's relatively impartial position as an outsider, but tempered this with their appreciation of diplomatic niceties as well as a consideration for the audience which included Italian journalists and would have meant that he would not have been overly critical. Some of the most perceptive answers referred to the fact that Churchill's visit would have been controlled and that he would have seen what Mussolini wanted him to see and this would have affected his views of what made Mussolini popular. In evaluating Source 2, most candidates drew upon his clear support for Mussolini, and many commented on the impact that the Cult of il Duce would have had upon him. Many commented on press restrictions which were relevant as Ojetti was a journalist, but surprisingly few used the information in the caption that the source was published posthumously and that it would not have been changed later. There were also too many candidates who did not engage logically with the question and criticised the sources because they did not include an opponent and therefore did not criticise Mussolini. This would have been relevant if candidates had been asked about attitudes to Mussolini or the extent of support but added little to an investigation into reasons why Mussolini was popular.

Both sources present a reverence for Mussolini, with each source focusing on how a populist agenda contributed to Mussolini's popularity. In addition, both sources present the popularity of individual fascist policy; source one presents popularity for economic policies and source 2 presents popular ~~ambitions~~ imperial ambitions. Ultimately, it becomes clear that the sources are somewhat useful to the historian.

The way in which the sources present Mussolini's populist attitude is indicative of why Mussolini was so popular in the period, and so strengthens the sources' utility. Churchill outlines how easily he was "charmed" by Mussolini, he "could not help" supporting his ideas. Mussolini is described as aiming for "the lasting good of the Italian people," and so it is clear that in source 1, Mussolini seeks to keep the Italian ^{people} happy. This populist approach of maintaining the ^{wellbeing} of Italians is not a misguided assumption, as the Fascist State's OND offered state-subsidised holidays in a bid to keep its workers happy; by the 1930s an estimated 80% of salaried workers participated. As such, it is evident that a key reason for Mussolini's popularity ^{was} ~~was~~

his undoubtedly populist approach, and this is echoed in Ojetti's account. He argues that "every word" said by Mussolini is a "deliberate step forward," and emboldens the fear of the crowd. His words resonate with the "masses of people," filling them "with such burning passion" and raising their spirits "to great heights." It is axiomatic, therefore, that Ojetti's Mussolini says the words his crowd want to hear and emboldening his popularity in the process. Much like how Churchill was "charmed," so too was the crowd ~~and~~ below Mussolini. Therefore, both sources present Mussolini as a populist figure, whose words and ideas are designed to charm his audience. Consequently, this ~~shared~~ ^{shared} theme is a key similarity between the sources, ~~making~~ ^{making} them ~~very~~ ^{very} useful to the historian.

Both sources also present differing policy aims. Whilst Churchill argues Mussolini's popularity is dependent on economic policy, Ojetti argues that Mussolini's imperial objectives are a key object of support. This point of difference arguably inhibits the utility. Churchill recounts that discussions of economic policy were "a large part ~~off~~ of [his] conversation," but he remarks that a "reduction in... pressure on... working people" and an "improvement" in the income from foreign trade" would ensure that "there is much to rejoice at." Evidently, Churchill suggests that the popularity among the

Italian population hinges a great deal on Mussolini's economic successes. That Mussolini saw the popularity he could attain through economic success isn't a misguided view, as between 1925-28, he launched four economic 'Battles' in an attempt to ~~gain~~ ensure popular support for ~~Mussolini~~ Italy's economic consensus. Evidently, Churchill suggests Mussolini's popularity was dependent on Italy's economic policies, whereas Ojetti suggests it ~~was~~ was predicated on foreign policy. The "excitement" and "cheering" Ojetti describes is reflective of Mussolini's ~~pop~~ mass popularity, and by celebrating Italy's new "empire" and the "glory of Rome," it is evident that Mussolini's popularity is not based on economic ~~success~~ ^{success}, as Churchill suggests, but on the success of Mussolini's imperial policies. By achieving an Italian empire, Mussolini had allayed the fear of Italian colonial inferiority that had plagued ~~our~~ governments, and had ~~achieved~~ achieved greater popularity. It is clear that both sources disagree, focusing on different policies as the foundation for popularity, and arguably this lack of consensus could inhibit the sources' utility to a historian.

When one overviews the evidence, the sources remain ~~some~~ slightly useful. ~~By~~ Churchill's is a speech, designed to relay the events of his meeting to an audience that includes ~~Italian~~ Fascist journalists. As such, he ~~is~~ is undoubtedly seeking to be sympathetic to Mussolini, aiming to

present himself and Britain as allies. ~~The~~ The speech is taken from the time, but its conciliatory tone and partisan audience inhibit its truthfulness, and therefore render it less than useful. Similarly, Ojetti's is recounting a speech by Mussolini, and when one considers that Ojetti was a supporter of Mussolini and the extract's tone is ^{consequently} overwhelmingly ~~positive~~ assured of ~~Mussolini's~~ the excitement and fervour Mussolini engenders within the audience, the ~~speech reports clear~~ lack of impartiality is evident. Moreover, being published in 1960 - long after the event - inhibits its utility. However, as a report, its duty was to inform the reader of the events, and so it is somewhat useful to a historian. Ultimately, whilst both contain clear inhibitors of utility, the sources remain somewhat useful due to the conciliatory tone taken by Churchill and the duty Ojetti has to inform the reader of the events.

In conclusion, the way in which the sources present Mussolini's populist character and the policies on which his popularity was predicated ensures the sources are somewhat useful. Whilst there are points of disagreement, the insights are in line with the events and so are not to be discounted. As such, the historian, when considering the provenance as well, could make some use of these sources together.



This is a level 5 response. It has a good range of reasoned inferences and considers how the sources can be used. It used contextual knowledge to show the values and concerns of the society. Its evaluation is level 4 as it is not fully justified and applied.



Remember to use the sources to explore the claims being made by the writer and to consider how valid they are.

Question 2

There were some effective answers to this question well answered with some useful source analysis and focused evaluation. Many candidates were able to make reasoned inferences and the general level of contextual knowledge was good. Many answers developed inferences at length from source content. However, a significant number of candidates did not link the provenance or context in any depth. This does depress achievement in the levels. The better answers linked Source 3 to the wider international issues and the way that the Cold War helped Spain to improve relations with other countries or picked up on the reservations by Holland and Belgium and the outright opposition of Italy to Spain's application to the EEC referred to in Source 4. Secure answers were also able to link the context to the analysis of source content and provenance. However, while many noted the different authorship and nature of the sources, relatively few developed the significance of the authorship beyond a top-secret report and a left-wing newspaper. Some candidates made good use of the difference in dates to comment on progress made whereas others merely commented that they did not cover the whole period.

There were few very low scoring answers to this question, though occasionally responses relied on paraphrasing the sources.

For the most part the sources are both useful in examining Spain's improvements in foreign relations, although source 4 speaks about some failures and limitations. Source 3 is valuable for ~~looking~~ looking at the impact of the Cold War on relations with the US. Source 4 mainly focuses on the EEC.

are valuable to

Both sources 3 and 4 display Spain's attempts to improve foreign relations during the 1950s and 60s. Source 3 shows the beneficial impact of the Cold War on foreign relations for Spain by mentioning the 'agreements' signed with the US for the use of 'military facilities' in Spain, in return for loans of \$465 million. Indeed, the Pact of Madrid in 1953 occurred primarily due to the context of the Cold War and Spain's 'strategic' location. Although Spain was not included in Marshall Aid in 1949, the creation of the Cold War and Spain's ~~and the US's~~ ^{anti} shared anti-Communist sentiments contributed to the Pact of Madrid. This pact represented

a shift in Franco's foreign policy from isolationist and autarkist ~~between 1939-1945~~ to free market and collaborative with the West ^{to} some extent. For instance, in 1955 Spain was accepted in the UN. After the 1959 Stabilisation Plan, which abolished the autarkist policies officially, Spain received loans ~~of and investment of \$7.6 billion~~ and investments of \$8.6 billion (40% of the investments from the US, which supports the idea that the Cold War helped improve foreign relations in source 3). Additionally, source 3 mentioned the Vatican; Franco signed a concordat with the Vatican in 1953, which supports the idea that foreign relations began to improve at this time. To some extent, source 4 also shows this improvement, because it mentions Spain's 'application' to the EEC in 1964. Although it was rejected on both economic and 'political grounds', this application still helps to display the development in foreign relations, as Spain made attempts to appear cooperate with the West and even appear more liberal. For example, after the EEC's rejection of Spain, Minister to Manuel Fraga attempted to somewhat liberalise Spain to ~~attract~~ improve foreign relations. This can be seen in the Act of Religious Freedoms 1967 and Organic Law 1967 (though the latter did not actually impact Franco's autocratic absolute powers). Source 4 shows the improvement of foreign relations through the EEC's 'negotiation' with Spain, presenting a development from the EEC's previous outright rejections.

Source 3 has a more positive opinion of Franco's improvements in foreign relations. It says that both the Pact of Madrid and the Concordat of 1953 have 'increased international prestige' and Franco's government is 'stronger than at any time since 1940'. The author's American nationality perhaps influences his opinion because of Spain's strategic importance in the Cold War and the mutual anti-Communist sentiment. Certainly Franco's prestige did improve through improvement of foreign relations which can also be seen in President Eisenhower's visit to Spain in the 1950s as well as Nixon's in 1973. Furthermore, mentioning 'since 1940' ~~states~~ ^{suggests} Franco's change in policy as he initially supported Hitler to an extent in WWII (not actively) but became passive in 1943. This implies that Spain succeeded in improvements.

On the other hand source 4 is from a left-leaning British newspaper and therefore focuses more on the limitations of Spain's foreign policy than successes. Furthermore, relations with Britain were not successful due to the issue of Gibraltar's sovereignty which may also influence the author.

Both sources are useful in examining Franco's improvements in foreign relations. While source 3 is useful in displaying developments specifically with the US due to the Cold War, source 4 primarily focuses on Spain and the EEC. Source 4 is more negative toward the improvements, for example speaking about the EEC's rejection of Spain, so it is also useful for investigating Franco's failures. Both of the sources also focus

more on the later period of Franco's rule (the 50s-70s) which help to show when Franco began to improve foreign relations.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a level 5 response. It has reasoned inferences and does develop valid criteria. It is strong in using contextual knowledge to demonstrate the values and concerns of the society, especially for the Cold War.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Justify comments on the reliability of the sources by drawing upon their content.

Question 3

This was the most popular question on 2G.1. Most answers were able to consider the rise of Catholicism as a political force and contrast it with alternative reasons, such as the impacts of the growth of socialism and nationalism, the impact of the Libyan War and the affect that the extension of the franchise had upon Giolitti's system of *trasformismo*. The best answers were characterised by the inclusion of exact knowledge and examples. Many candidates had a good knowledge of the rise of Catholicism and were able to discuss the way in which it caused Giolitti's decline in influence, including the long running issue of the 'Roman Question' and the more immediate issues caused by Giolitti's need for the Catholic vote as a counteraction against the rise of socialism and the nationalists which resulted in the Gentiloni Pact and the subsequent backlash from the radical Liberals who forced his resignation in March 1914. However, there were too many candidates whose knowledge was limited and who wrote about the PPI, which was not established until 1919, and then argued that the Catholics achieved a majority in the 1913 election. Candidates do need precise knowledge to argue a case successfully and, in many cases, they were let down by a lack of precision. Similarly, there were many references to events out of period such as Red Week (June 1914), the Interventionist Crisis, the events of the First World War and even the rise of fascism. It is recommended that candidates take a careful note of the date range of the question they select and ensure that they do not waste valuable time writing responses that cannot be credited. Furthermore, it is important to move beyond description and focus on developing causal factors. Many candidates included lengthy descriptions of the north-south divide and asserted that it caused Giolitti's decline, but very few were able to explain why this long running socio-economic problem should lead to his decline. Those candidates who linked it to the migration of peasants to the northern factories, the influence that the PSI had in these factories and the extension of the franchise were on much surer ground for providing a causal explanation.

It is extremely accurate to say that the rise of Catholicism as a political force was the main reason for Giolitti's decline in influence in the years 1911-14. Giolitti was elected Prime Minister for the 4th time in 1911 and adopted the policy of ~~transformation~~ to help win support of other political groups. This failed with the Socialist and nationalists and led to a decline in support. The main reason for his resignation was the rise in Catholicism evident from the publication of the Secret Gentiloni pact which directly led to his resignation.

The rise in Catholicism led to ~~mass~~ Giolitti's decline in influence 1911-14 and then ~~from~~ was the main cause for resignation in 1914. Giolitti, despite saying the church and state are two parallels that should never meet in 1904, sought co-operation with the Catholics. This is evident in 1904 when he stopped a divorce bill from passing. This is also evident in the Invasion of Libya 1911 as Pope Benedict had connections financially with Banco di Roma which was established in the capital in 1907. ~~Mass~~ Giolitti was the first politician to win the Catholic vote. ~~and~~ Catholicism was rising as 233 ~~out~~ out of the 317 liberal seats won in 1913 elections was boosted by Gentiloni. The Catholics were responsible for. This Secret pact when published outraged

the anticlerical liberals and directly led to the resignation of Giolitti. The Catholics continued to grow in as a political force as was part of coalitions in Turin and Bologna. Therefore, the rise in Catholicism was the main reason for Giolitti's loss of support 1911-14 and directly ^{as it} led to his resignation.

The rise in socialism in Italy was another factor that led to the decline of Giolitti's influence 1911-14. Giolitti tried to absorb the socialist through policies such as; 1901 banning employment of children under 12 and the 1906 non-intervention in labour disputes. However, evidently in 1913 elections, this was still not enough as the liberals lost 71 seats from 1909 elections and the Socialist had made significant gain of 104 seats. The PSI was becoming more powerful and grew hostile towards liberals due to 3,500 lives lost in the invasion of Libya which had no direct gain to the working class. The PSI would continue to grow which would scare the upper class into turning towards the nationalists to try and halt a communist revolution. The ANI was established in 1910 and was also making gains in the 1913 election at the expense of the liberals. Therefore, the rise in socialism was an important factor towards the decline of Giolitti's influence 1911-14 but was still increasing steadily making it manageable to be handled by Giolitti which shows it was not the most important factor in his influence.

The economic issues and social issues in Italy caused a decline in the Giolitti influence 1911-14. Giolitti's attempt to win support of nationalists failed as his policy of economic modernisation had failed. After 1908 there was a rise in strikes in which made the liberals look weak due to non-intervention in labour disputes 1906. However, there was improvements in ^{the} economy & set living standards. Illiteracy in the south declined 10% 1901-1900. There was a six major car producers in Turin alone with Fiat producing half of Italian vehicles in 1914. In 1913 Italy was responsible for a third of the world supply of silk. The maternity fund gave 1910, gave 40 lire to the family for each new baby. Many health issues such as malaria declined slightly. This all contributed to the reduction of living standards of the North and south divide which would of granted Giolitti some support therefore not being the main reason for his decline in influence 1911-14. Therefore, the economic and social issues in Italy did, caused slight decline in Giolitti's influence 1911-14 but was not the main cause as there was successful policies which would of granted him support.

In conclusion, it is extremely accurate to say that the rise in Catholicism as a political force was the main reason for Giolitti's decline in influence in the years 1911-14. The success gained from working with the Catholics was overshadowed by the

publicity of the Gentiloni pact which lost Giolitti's support from Socialist and the anti-clerical liberal which left to Giolitti's resignation and the appointment of Salandra. The rise of the Socialist was important as it led to the rise in nationalism out of fear of communist revolution however the rise was steady and manageable not making it the main reason. The economic and social issues were limited on the impact of Giolitti's resignation as there was improvement. Extremely accurate that the rise in Catholicism was the most important reason for Giolitti's decline in influence 1911-14.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a level 5 response. The key issues are explored and compared to the main reason suggested. It does develop valid criteria for reaching a judgement, although the circumstances of Giolitti's resignation could have been dealt with with more precision.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This is a causation question. The most effective answers consider the given cause in some depth and compare it to alternatives to reach a judgement on whether it is the main, and therefore most important, reason.

Question 4

This was much less popular than Question 3. Although there were some excellent responses to this question. Answers at the top end were exceptional. The best answers were able to equally balance the comparison of the impacts of the two wars. A thematic approach proved most effective. These responses tended to look at political, social and economic impacts and assess them for similarity and difference. This question enabled prepared candidates to display detailed knowledge in support of their arguments and achieve the highest level. It was a question that allowed candidates to play to their strengths, enabling them to select the key impacts that they could best compare. Most answers tended to focus on similarity on the adverse economic impact of the wars and the differences in the political consequences with the rise of fascism after the First World War and the collapse of fascism in 1945. Similarly, most candidates examined the difference in Italy's ability to fight the First World War till 1918 as a united country, whereas it was occupied and divided in the Second World War, as well as the obvious difference in that Italy emerged from the First World War as a victor and from the Second as a defeated nation. Weaker responses tended to treat both wars separately and without a clear comparison were unable to achieve beyond level 3.

Although there are very obvious differences between the impact of WWI and WWII on Italy, most notably that Italy was victorious in WWI and defeated in WWII, there were some similarities in the impact of the wars. In both wars the Italian armed forces were plagued by problems and performed woefully. Economic hardship domestically was also a common feature in both wars, although to differing degrees. On the other hand, during WWII, the whole of Italy was occupied by either the Allies or Germany and Italian involvement ended in defeat. Whereas, in WWI, Italy was on the victorious side and did gain territory, even if many Italians viewed it as a 'mutilated victory'.

The way in which the First and Second World Wars were most similar in their impacts upon Italy was in the economic hardships caused by war. During both wars rationing was introduced and calorie consumption fell. In WWII, rations were only 1000 calories a day and this led to

The impacts of Occupation and fighting on Italian soil differs considerably between the two wars. In WWII, beginning with the Allied invasion of Sicily, Operation Husky, and later of Southern Italy in July 1943, all of Italy would eventually come under the effective military occupation of a foreign power: the Allies in the South and the Germans, with their puppet Salo Republic, in the North. The impact of occupation, and civil war in the North between ~~the~~ 50,000 Communist Partisans and German forces, supported by the Black Brigades of the Salo Republic, and the brutal fighting between Allied and German forces is not radically different to WWI. In WWI only the region of Veneto was ever occupied by Austrian forces and fighting, although brutal, took place mainly in sparsely populated mountainous regions and had a comparatively minor impact on the Italian population. Contrastingly the slow and grinding advance of the Allies up the Italian Peninsula, delayed by the German forces under the command of General Kesselring, who held the allies at defensive positions, such as the Gustav Line and Monte Cassino, had a far larger impact on the Italian population. But this impact was both directly, through the violence and bombing, and indirectly, particularly through malnutrition, which was

exacerbated by the widespread corruption in post-war distribution ~~to~~ caused by the American decision to rely on the Mafia. Through comparison, the minor impact of occupation and fighting in the First World War and the hugely significant occupation and fighting that took place in the Second, it can be seen that in this respect the impact of the two wars ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~almost~~ ~~no~~ were almost completely different.

In terms of the post-war political impact of the two wars, their impacts were almost diametrically opposed. After WWI, nationalist anger over the 'mutilated victory' and the rise of socialism in the Red Biennio Rosso, which was to a large extent caused by war-related economic issues, such as inflation, contributed significantly to the rise of fascism. Although fascism thrived in the immediate post-war period, gaining no seats in the 1919 elections, the longer term economic and political consequences of the war were instrumental in the establishment of fascism. Without the rising threat of socialism and nationalist anger, both greatly catalyzed by the impact of WWI, it is hard to see how Mussolini could have gained power. In contrast, the occupation of the Allies led to the ~~restoration~~

shment of democracy and the holding of a referendum leading to the abolition of the monarchy. In terms of the impacts of WWI and WWII on Italy during the post-war periods they are completely different. WWI led to the fatal weakening of Liberal democracy and eventually was a vital contributing factor to the rise of fascism. On the other hand, the defeat of Fascist Italy in WWII led to the re-establishment of democracy and the abolition of the monarchy.

In conclusion, the impact of the Second World War on Italy was radically different to the First World War, however it is not true to say that they were completely different. In terms of the post-war political impact the two world wars led to diametrically opposed outcomes; the eventual rise of Fascism in 1922 after WWI, and the establishment of democracy after WWII. Similarly in terms of the impact of war and occupation directly on the Italian population the two wars are almost completely different. In WWII the whole of Italy was occupied, and fighting and bombing had a great impact on a significant portion of the population. Contrastingly direct fighting in WWI was confined mainly to Alpine regions for most of the war and only

in 1917 after the Battle of Caporetto was the region of Venetia occupied by Austrian forces. However, the economic impact of the two wars do have many similarities in terms of a drop in living standards and a reduction in working conditions. While this was more severe in WWII, especially due to the impact of Allied bombing, the similarities between the two was of the economic impact on the domestic population means it is not accurate to say that the impacts of the Second World War was completely different to the First World War in every respect.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a secure level 5 response. It has sustained analysis and very good knowledge deployed to support the argument which is fully focused on the concepts. It develops and analyses a range of similarities and differences and reaches a secure judgement.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This question focuses on similarity and difference. In similarity and difference questions, a brief plan helps you to focus on the second order concept.

Question 5

This was the least popular question on Option 2G.2. At the higher level, responses showed an excellent range of supporting details which engaged well with the focus of the question. These responses considered the continued power of the Catholic Church, the revival of monarchist sentiments, the way that the *latifundia* continued to exert its power in the countryside and the enduring power of the army in spite of Azaña's reforms. They contrasted these points with the changes to the influence of the conservative forces as a result of reforms, including the establishment of the republic, the ending of Catholicism as a state religion, the army reforms and the reduction in the powers of industrialists and landowners. They were then able to weigh up the arguments to decide whether, on balance, the forces of conservatism continued to hold sway or whether they were curtailed. However, there were many weaker responses which were characterised by their lack of understanding as to what is meant by 'forces of conservatism' and consequently produced quite muddled answers. This is a key term that is used in the specification and centres are advised to make sure that candidates are aware of and can define key terms.

Although ~~Spain~~ the ~~sp~~ Second Republic attempted to remove conservative influence through various policies such as attempting to undermine the church's influence, and providing sovereignty for regional nationalities, and implemented policies to ~~oversee~~ ^{promote} ~~give~~ aid agricultural sector and undermine the army, there was largely little due to ~~no~~ ~~overwhelming~~ ^{conservative} opposition faced by ~~govern~~ conservative forces.

to remove political opposition

The second republic aimed to remove conservative influence through various policies. For instance, the republic aimed to reduce the power of the church through article 3, which declared that there was no official religion in Spain, article 26 which stopped economic aid to the church, article 27 which banned church bells and article 14 which stopped church influence over the education. This allowed the republic to destroy the power of the church ^{over} ~~in~~ society. ^{Other policies} ~~which~~ ^{to reduce conservatism} ~~was~~ ^{implemented} through attempting to reduce the power and ~~the~~ size of the army. For instance, conscription was reduced to 1 year and early retirement was given to officers whereby 8,000 ~~was~~ did. Most importantly, through the evaluation of promotions, the government was able to investigate any ^{officers} ~~power~~ who were given promotions by *primo de rorro*. As a result,

500 officers were investigated. ~~However, attempts to~~

However, attempts to remove church influence was largely
criticised by right wing newspaper "el debate" which stated
that the constitution was satanic. As a result of church reforms,
many believed it was too harsh thus a right wing group was
formed as a result of the split coalition - called CEDA which
emphasised the restoration of conservatism.

Conservatism was phased as unsuccessful through the failure of
the second republic's economic policies.
The second republic ~~also attempted to~~ ~~remove~~ ~~conservative~~
~~influence through economic policies.~~ For instance, reforms
to promote the agricultural industry was put in place. This
included the law of municipal boundaries (1931) which
targeted landowners by forcing them to employ workers from
their surrounding area rather than cheap migrants. Also, the
law of obligatory cultivation ⁽¹⁹³¹⁾ ~~was~~ ~~made~~ ensured that land was
used to increase employment levels. As well as this Agrarian
reform ~~was~~ (1932) undermined conservatism by ensuring that
landowners with more than 23 hectares of land was taken away
and ~~be~~ redistributed. ~~to~~ Other economic policies were used to
give workers more rights by increasing wage rates by 16%,
minimum working ^{day} ~~hour~~ was at 8 hours and 7 days payed
~~to~~ leave per year which undermined conservative
policies. However, many agricultural policies were largely
ignored by landowners because of the republic's inability to
enforce them. This meant that conservative influence was
unsuccessfully undermined. As well as this, when Demoux

came into power in 1931, 1934, various agrarian reforms were reversed which proved their futility.

Another way conservatism remained influential is through right wing opposition to reform. For instance, Sanjurjo's uprising in 1932 opposed Catalan ~~statute~~ ^{statute} (1932) which implemented Catalan autonomy. Although Sanjurjo was able to challenge the policies implemented by the republic through marching with 10,000 soldiers into Seville. Although he ultimately failed to raise an army in Seville, he was still able to execute ~~power of over the republic~~ ^{acts} a powerful conservative challenge towards the republic. Furthermore, Bloque Agrario de Salamanca (1932) was a ~~group of~~ group of landowners that argued ~~against~~ against the agrarian reforms. Firstly, they argued that the reforms caused ~~prices~~ cost of production to increase by an unbearable amount. Also, they were backed by CEDA who advocated for a conservative government. This is evident through CEDA's influence as they won 20% of votes in the 1934 elections and formed a coalition with Lerroux's party who earned 30% of votes thus highlighting the continuity of conservatism within the republic.

To conclude, the republic attempted to wipe out the forces of conservatism through policies against the church and army. ~~However,~~ However, the forces of conservatism remained influential

through the failure of economic policies and Lerooux's government which reversed various reforms. As well as this, opposition against the second republic from the right showed that the conservative forces remained influential.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a secure level 4 response. It explores a range of factors in depth both for and against the proposal in the question. It does establish some criteria for judgement.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This question focuses on continuities. The most effective answers consider both continuities and changes in order to reach a reasoned judgement.

Question 6

This was the most popular question on Option 2G.2 and produced some of the most impressive responses on the whole paper. Most candidates understood who supported which side, and many understood that intervention helped to divide the Republican side, whereas it united the Nationalist side. There was some excellent knowledge displayed of the economic and military aid provided to the different sides and the implications of the imbalance in the resources provided. Most candidates were able to assess the impact of the Non-Intervention pact in the overall assistance offered. However, some candidates were confused about the International Brigades and some thought that because the International Brigades included British people, then Britain supported the Republicans. There were some well-developed explanations about the role of the Soviet Union and the impact its demands had on dividing the Republican side and, hence, weakening it. Similarly, impressive knowledge of the battle and the impact of foreign intervention in their outcome was displayed and used effectively to argue in favour of the statement in the question.

To some extent, it can be argued that foreign intervention helped the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War. Although no Western countries officially aided the Republicans, volunteers fought for the Republicans in Spain through international brigades. These volunteers came from a range of different countries, including the US, France and Britain to name a few. Furthermore, Stalin did give official aid to the Republicans during the war including military hardware, engineers and ammunition, helping the Republicans to be better equipped. Additionally, it can be argued that foreign intervention was not wholly beneficial to the Nationalists because the controversy of Guernica - thousands of civilians killed with the help of the Nazi Condor Legion - led to outrage and a worsened opinion of the Nationalists internationally. However, overall I agree with the statement to a greater extent because the foreign aid from Mussolini and Hitler far exceeded that of Stalin and the international brigades for the Republicans. The troops, equipment and aircraft given to the Nationalists by Italy and Germany were a decisive factor in their victory against the Republicans.

To some extent, foreign intervention helped the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. Stalin officially gave the Republicans aid

which included 500 tonnes of military hardware, 500 engineers, as well as some machine guns, ammunition and other equipment. This was helpful for the Republicans because they were less well equipped than the Nationalists at the start of the war - before any foreign intervention for either side. For instance, Nationalists had nearly double the number of aircrafts - the Republicans had only 350 compared to the Nationalists' 600 in 1936. Therefore it can be argued that Stalin helped the Republicans. Furthermore, international brigades were an important help. Sympathisers and left-wing supporters around the world came to Spain to volunteer as soldiers/militia. Their numbers totalled 35,000. Again, this was helpful because the Nationalists also outnumbered the Republicans in 1936: 800,000 troops compared to 450,000. The international brigades were renowned for their bravery during the war in battles such as the Battle of the Ebro in 1938 - the largest Republican offensive of the war.

Additionally, it can be argued foreign intervention was not overwhelmingly beneficial to the Nationalists. During the Nationalist offensive to Vizcaya / Biscay Campaign, the Nationalists bombed the town of Guernica ^{in April 1937} with the help of German planes (the Condor Legion). This was highly controversial, resulting in deaths of 1685 civilians, and worsened the international public opinion of the Nationalists. However, it still did not result in official aid for the Republicans from Britain or France.

However, to a greater extent, foreign intervention was of little help to the Republicans and was far more beneficial for the Nationalists. Significantly, the aid of Mussolini and Hitler gave the Nationalists domination in the air ~~war~~ with far more aircraft. For instance, Italy sent 130 aircraft and Germany sent the Condor Legion of fighter planes to help them. This was critical in a number of battles, like the ^{of 1937} Vercaya Campaign, Malaga (1936), Brunete (1937) and Ebro (1938); all of these were won by the Nationalists largely due to the superiority of their airforce, enabling ~~the~~ to bombard Vercaya for instance and gain control of Northern Spain. Furthermore, Italy sent 50,000 troops and Germany 10,000, increasing the disparity between the Nationalist and Republican forces. These numbers show the insignificance of the international brigades in comparison, which were also largely untrained volunteers, not soldiers, who fought with revolutionary warfare tactics in militias. This put the Republicans at an extreme disadvantage.

Additionally, the Nationalists received far more equipment from Italy and Germany ~~than~~ than the Republicans received from Russia - it was also of superior quality to the Russian equipment. Germany sent 10,000 rifles ^{grenades} and machine guns, and Italy also sent hundreds of tonnes of bombs / ammunition. These supplies and aid were highly significant in the bloody conflicts of Teruel in late 1937 and Ebro in mid-1938. Despite the extremely heavy losses totalling 110,000 ^{casualties} for both sides at Teruel and approximately the

same amount at Alamo, the Nationalists were not only victorious but could also advance on quickly afterwards due to the number of supplies they were receiving from their ideologically aligned fascist allies. ~~the~~ On the other hand, the Republicans were unable to fully recover from the battles, even having to call off the brigades at Alamo as it became a battle of attrition, because the resources from Stalin were insufficient. It also did not help that Stalin was only aligned with the Communists within the Republican side rather than the anarchists (CNT) and socialists (POUM) which deepened the divides between these groups. To some extent Stalin's involvement exacerbated the tensions leading to direct factional conflicts in the Barcelona May Days 1937 and the Fall of Madrid 1939. NKVD agents even killed the POUM leader Andreu Nin displaying these deep divisions.

Overall, I agree with the statement to a great extent. Although Stalin and international brigades may have provided some help to Republicans it was not enough. Hitler and Mussolini's aid to the Nationalists was overwhelmingly greater, allowing them to dominate the air and the field with aircraft, troops and superior equipment. Furthermore, it can be argued that Stalin's aid to the Republicans exacerbated their internal conflicts ~~with~~ which contributed to their defeat.



This response is a top level 5. It has excellent focus on the question and debates the issues throughout. It is very strong in developing criteria and reaching judgement. It is supported by excellent knowledge.



This is a consequence question. Consequence questions do differ from causation questions. Remember that you are looking at impact.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

Section A

- Candidates should read the question carefully and ensure that they directly address the focus of the enquiry in their comments
- Candidates should aim to draw out reasoned and developed inferences that go beyond comprehension and summary of the sources
- Candidates should read the caption carefully so that they can make full use of it when evaluating the sources
- Contextual knowledge should be used to illuminate and discuss what is in the source, rather than provide an answer to the enquiry. Long descriptions of linked events are unlikely to gain much, if any, credit
- Candidates should ensure that their responses address the demands of all elements of the mark scheme.

Section B

- Candidates must provide precise contextual knowledge as evidence. Weaker responses generally lacked depth and sometimes range
- Candidates should avoid a narrative/descriptive approach; this undermines the analysis that is required for the higher levels
- Candidates need to be aware of key dates as identified in the specification so that they can address the questions with chronological precision
- Candidates should try to explore the links between issues rather than merely present a list of factors
- Candidates should ensure that they deal with both sides of an argument where the question requires this.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

