

Above 80: outstanding work that shows exceptional analysis of the source material, and great fluency and ability in constructing an argument around this. For essays, intelligent and wide-ranging use of relevant secondary literature, and the ability to coherently fit the argument of the essay precisely to the specified length.

70-79: work that displays excellent use of the source material, with good analysis and argumentation based on this, and good structuring of the individual points and the overall theme, though not as well as the higher band. For essays, intelligent and innovative approaches to the question, based on a solid understanding of primary and secondary literature and enabled by good construction of a fluent argument.

60-69: work that shows similar skill in analysis and argumentation to the higher band, but with less consistent skill with the source material, and some flaws or gaps in the argumentation. For essays, good use of secondary literature but without as wide-ranging or insightful engagement both with primary and secondary texts.

50-59: competent, but ultimately showing no great insight or ability to really analyse source material, and with an argument that is less coherent and otherwise flawed. For essays, less use of and engagement with secondary literature, and difficulty constructing or following an argument based on the reading.

40-49: overall weak work, unable to use the sources or construct even a thematic argument around them, while still showing some awareness of basic points or generalised arguments. For essays, problems actually answering the question, and poor, limited use of primary or secondary source material, without any clear structuring of the overall argument.

30-39: very poor work that shows little engagement with either the question or the relevant primary or secondary source material.

Below 30: very poor work that does not engage with the question, and displays an inability to analyse, use, or engage with anything relevant.