



Questions & Answers

Advanced Higher Classical Studies

1 Wider reading

Does 'wider reading' have to be from outside the prescription?

Wider reading refers to any relevant primary or secondary source material which is not directly referenced in the question. So, this may include other texts studied in the course. For epic poems and long prose works of philosophy or history, wider reading could refer to different books from the same text.

Where marking instructions award credit for 'wider reading', would you expect candidate to show wider reading in all four points?

No. Markers should use professional judgement to decide how well wider reading has complemented the points made in the answer as a whole.

2 Source comparison questions

In a comparison question, could a candidate make only two comparisons but gain more marks because there was so much detail, ie further analysis would get credit despite only two points of comparison?

If only two areas of comparison are discussed, then only 2 marks could be awarded for the skill of comparison. However, the candidate could gain up to 10 marks for skilful use of evidence regardless of how many areas of comparison were addressed: so, 12 would be the maximum possible mark for a detailed and accurate answer which only discussed two areas of comparison.

In a comparison question, could you get 5 marks for comparison without a good conclusion?

No. One mark is awarded for each discussion of relevant comparison between the sources up to a total of 4. One further mark can be awarded if there is a good conclusion which draws upon what has been said about the comparisons, to give an overall answer to the question.

In source comparison questions, how much of the sources need to be referenced versus drawing on their understanding from outside the two sources?

Although the extracts in the paper are named 'sources', candidates should be aware that these are merely extracts from the source as a whole. Candidates can use information about the source drawn from the extract in the paper or drawn from their recall of what is in the source. There is no stipulation on how many discussion points should stem from the extract, and how many from recall. Candidates should bear in mind that discussion of any point

whether from the extract or from recall, will require reference to knowledge not given in the extract in order to show understanding of context or theme.

3 Modern source comparison question

Is there any requirement for candidates to 'interpret' a quote from the source in their own words, or can they simply lift the quote then draw the comparison?

They should quote from the source. Their discussion will show how well they have understood the meaning of the source. If they reword what the source says, they may end up altering what it means and thus their answer may become irrelevant.