**AnAlyisng SOurces Paper TWo: IGCSe history**

**General Rules**

This Paper is worth 40 Marks and is a one-hour 45-minute exam. It will count for 30% of your final grade. You know the topic before the exam, but revising for it is hard. Instead, you need to ensure that you have worked on your historical skills before the exam so you know exactly what you are doing.

You always have five questions. Aim to spend 15-20 minutes on each of the first four questions, giving you 30 minutes to answer question five fully.

Our exam this year will be on:

‘Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?’

At St Pauls we use the OPUL system of analysing sources.

Go through each source and think about its:

**O**rigin

**P**urpose

**U**sefulness

**L**imitations

If you are clear on each of these things. Then, you should have no trouble answering the questions.

* Always refer to the source by its letter.
* Begin your answer by explaining your point of view as succinctly as possible to show you have understood the question.
* You are expected to identify the MAIN idea. You are not rewarded for explaining every point. If you spend much time explaining sub-messages, you will not score well.
* Almost all questions will have a simple answer you will be expected to grasp. Show you understand this first before you try to provide more details.
* Don’t try and make the examiner work hard to find your points. Keep your writing straightforward, it should not be necessary to go outside the space allotted for your answer to get full marks.
* Keep your quoting as concise as possible. You are trying to show you have understood the source as quickly as possible; the examiner does not want to read the source written out again. Answers that make a point without providing any evidence will not get a good score, nor will answers that describe the source without explaining what it means.
* Make sure you read the abstract, which explains the origin of the source. This will often give you a big clue on what the answer will be, especially on questions where the sources appear to be saying different things and you need to answer why they are both surprising and unsurprising.
* There is no order that you have to answer in the exam. If your English is weak, start with the cartoons and then move onto the shortest sources. Remember that an A last year was 27 out of 40, so it really is a case of taking the marks where you can.
* Secondary sources are generally more reliable than primary, but this is not a hard rule. NEVER say that a source is more reliable than the other simply because it is a secondary source.
* Reliability is relatively easy to judge, but you must be able to support your answer. Unreliable or biased sources will be overly emotive or use words with only negative or positive connotations. Look to see if there is supporting evidence for the points being made. Use these pieces of evidence in your response. If a question is not about reliability, do not question the source or include anything about reliability in your answer. If something is clearly propaganda or untrue, then of course address it, but if you are unsure, then you don’t need to say anything.
* Even if a source is unreliable, it can still be useful as it indicates a viewpoint from the time.
* You can include your knowledge in your answers, and you will be rewarded with marks. **HOWEVER, the Source analysis should be the focus,** and anything you must add should be precise and succinct. Many students ruin their answers because they placed incorrect information not from the source. Be very careful, and remember you can still get full marks without adding information from outside the source.

If you have the OPUL for each source, you should easily be able to answer the following questions. It will be very unlikely that you will get a question that is not below or at least a slight variation of the questions below. Make sure you are sure of the requirements of each of the question types below and have done plenty of practice before the exam.

**7 Mark Questions**

These are simple questions along the lines of

‘Why was this Source Published?’

‘How would ‘…………..’ have reacted to this source?’

‘How far do these two sources agree?’

‘What can you learn from this Source?’

‘How useful would this Source be to a Historian?’

**8 Mark Questions**

These are a little more difficult

‘Are you surprised by this source?’

‘Do you trust this source?’

‘Which of these sources is more reliable/useful?’

‘Does one source prove another source wrong’?

‘Why do we know that the source is from the year it was published in’?

Remember when you are answering the question that there is not a 100% correct answer, you will be expected to give both sides if you want full marks e.g. You will never be completely surprised or unsurprised by a source, explain what is surprising and then unsurprising. You must refer to all the sources in the question in your answer.

**9 Mark Questions**

The last question will ask you how far do the sources agree or disagree with a general statement. This will be worth 9 Marks, you should aim to spend no less than 30 minutes on this question. This is the question where it is easiest to pick up marks, so it is important you spend a lot of time on it.

There is a simple way to approach this. There are generally six resources, go through each source individually writing a small paragraph on each with a line in-between. You then explain if each source agrees **or** disagrees, using direct evidence from the source (quote if you can), but this is not always possible. You will get one mark for every source you correctly identify as either agreeing or disagreeing if you evidence.

Some of the sources will both agree and disagree with the statement, and you will have to identify this. You cannot get into the top mark band without sources that agree and disagree. Sometimes they will have a source which is not relevant to the statement. With the reduction of sources this year, this will be unlikely. Generally, Source A and Source B come from History textbooks so will give both sides, but this is not an absolute rule.

In the past the examiner can award an extra two marks if you correctly identify the ‘Provenance’ of two particular sources. This means understanding the views and beliefs of the person who has written the source. This has now been taken out of the mark scheme, but still, add this in if possible to demonstrate your mastery of the topic.