

## COMMON ENTRANCE SOURCE QUESTIONS

### Q1 COMPREHENSION (2 marks)

A basic comprehension question aimed at Source A and requiring **one sentence and a short quotation** to illustrate the point.

*"The writer of source A shows that the monks were lazy when he writes that 'the monks spent their days drinking and singing, ignoring their duties.'"*

### Q2 COMPREHENSION (3 marks)

As above but focused on source B and requiring **two sentences and a little more detail**. Short and relevant quotations are essential.

### Q3 COMPARISON (7 marks)

A comparison between sources is needed with you explaining how they agree or disagree and if possible why they agree or disagree.

You are normally asked to compare the picture source to the two written sources and to decide which agrees or disagrees more.

Make sure you understand what you are comparing.

a. Describe how C agrees / disagrees with A

Include the general **theme/feel** of source; e.g:

*"In Source B it seems that Joan is confused, but in Source C Joan appears to be quite boastful and full of herself"*

b. Describe how C agrees / disagrees with B

c. Conclusion - answer the question

*"Source A disagrees with source B because A says that Harold did not have many soldiers, "before a third of his army had prepared...he went into battle", but B says that Harold had a large army, "other advantages were their large number of soldiers", so they disagree here."*

#### **Q4 EVALUATING SOURCES FOR UTILITY / RELIABILITY**

(8 marks)

The most difficult question as it concerns provenance and source utility. You will be asked to pick the most useful or reliable source, so you must focus on three key areas: **Nature, Origin, Purpose (NOP)** of **ALL** of the sources and then come to a considered judgement.

Make sure you understand the question

### **a) Source Utility**

The examiner will be trying to find out if you can spot and explain the source that contains the facts and source that contains the opinions.

Ensure you know what you have to answer (e.g studying the battle - a vague question - or studying why he lost - a specific question)

**What do the sources (the CONTENT) say in answer to the question?**

- a. What **FACTS** can you learn?
- b. What **OPINIONS** (views, thoughts, propaganda) can you learn?

**Then briefly consider:**

What does the **provenance** say about their believability? How trustworthy is it - what problems might exist? Does it sound believable?

**Ensure that you:**

Deal with each source separately - and **do them ALL**

## **b) Source Reliability**

How trustworthy is the source? How accurate is the source? What problems might there be with the source? Is it one-sided, full of opinion or fact, contemporary or secondary?

- a. **Read the PROVENANCE** - decide what you might expect from the text (why you might believe it , why you might not believe it, any possible problems)
- b. Then **read the content** - were your expectations correct?

**Ensure that you:**

Deal with each source separately - and do them **ALL**

**REMEMBER** - nothing is ever useless; even the most one-sided source full of lies reveals what that author thought.

**REMEMBER** - this is a question about Quantity and Quality - how much information is it telling you, and how trustworthy is the information it is telling you? A USEFUL source is a source that TELLS YOU A LOT.

**REMEMBER** - NEVER use the word '**reliable**' in a utility question; the examiner will assume you are muddling the words up. If the accuracy of the source is an issue, use the word 'trustworthy' instead, but make it clear that you are saying this as part of assessing the source's utility.

### Important words/phrases

Memory

Eyewitness

Opinion

Motive

Propaganda

Research

Exaggerate

Persuade

Suggest

Access to information

Variety of sources

Inferred

Typical

True opinion

One-sided

Staged