



**Rugby
School**

Sixth Form Entrance Examination

Specimen Paper

HISTORY

Time allowed: 60 minutes

This paper consists of two sections. It is marked out of 30. You should spend about 25 minutes on Section One and 35 minutes on Section Two.

Section A: Document exercise

This section consists of one document with questions on it underneath. You should not spend more than 25 minutes on this section.

Document A: AJP Taylor discusses how historians approach their subject

History is not just a catalogue of events put in the right order like a railway timetable. History is a version of events. Between the events and the historian there is a constant interplay. The historian tries to impose on events some kind of rational pattern: how they happened and even why they happened. No historian starts with a blank mind as a jury is supposed to do. He does not go to documents or archives with a childlike innocence of mind and wait patiently until they dictate conclusions to him. Quite the contrary.

His picture, his version of events, is formed before he begins to write or even to research. I am told that scientists do much the same. They conduct experiments to confirm their ideas. They do not sit open-mouthed until an idea occurs to them. Similarly the historian is after details to thicken up his picture and make it look intellectually convincing. Usually he finds them. Sometimes the opposite happens. He comes across events that upsets his preconceived picture.

1. Read Document A. In what ways does the author suggest that the approach of an historian to research is similar to the approach of a scientist? 3 marks

2. Give an example from your own studies where you have approached a topic with a preconceived picture formed in your own mind. Give an example of how a piece (or collection) of evidence has supported, or upset, this preconceived picture. 7 marks

Section B: Essay

Below is a description of the impact of the reign of Peter the Great (1693-1725) upon the history of Russia. Read the extract and the answer one of the questions that follow. You may refer to the extract in your answer but you do not need to. You should not spend more than 35 minutes on this section.

The reign of Peter the Great marked a watershed in Russian History, which writers still often divide into the 'pre-Petrine' and 'post-Petrine' era. Almost everything Peter did provoked controversy. His military campaigns won territory on the Baltic and raised Russia's profile in world affairs, but they also aroused fears abroad of Russian expansionism. He founded a new capital, St Petersburg, named not after him but his patron saint. He also created a fleet, but these and other major projects were unpopular and imposed huge burdens on all his subjects, from richest to poorest. His many reforms aimed to make Russia more modern and efficient, but, like his military program, they relied on the old institutions of autocracy and serfdom. His experiments in social and cultural engineering offended religious sensibilities and sharply divided the elite from the mass of the population. To his admirers he was godlike; to his most extreme opponents he was the devil or the Antichrist.

1. 'The reign of Peter of Great marked a watershed in Russian History'

Choose an individual from any period of History you have studied. How important was that individual in bringing about change?

Or

2. 'Almost everything Peter did provoked controversy'

Choose an individual that you have studied about whom there is controversy. Assess the reasons for disagreements about their actions and/or reputation.

20 Marks

END OF PAPER