



2013
HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION

History Extension

General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black or blue pen
Black pen is preferred

Total marks – 50

Section I Pages 2–3

25 marks

- Attempt Question 1
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section II Page 4

25 marks

- Attempt Question 2
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section I

25 marks

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant issues of historiography
 - use relevant sources to support your argument
 - present a detailed, logical and cohesive response
-

Using the Source, answer the question that follows.

Source

...I am enthralled by the craft of discipline and imagination that is history...

Historians always have at least two stories to tell: what we think happened, and how we know what we think happened. So the 'non' in our 'non-fiction' signifies an edge that can sharpen our prose and heighten our sense of danger and wonder. The good historian, like the top tennis player, plays the edges, hits down the line. If you play too safely, too comfortably within the court, then there's no daring and no contest; and if you play constantly outside the line, then you will offend reason and poetry – and you'll be called 'out'. Imagination must work in creative friction with a given world, there are rules as well as freedoms, there are hard edges of reality one must respect. There is a world out there that humbles one, disciplines one. There are silences not of our making. These silences and this uncertainty are the historian's creative opportunity – and should be part of any story we tell...

Historians immerse themselves in context; they give themselves wholly and sensually to the mysterious, alchemical* power of archives. As well as gathering and weighing evidence, piece by piece with forensic intensity, they sensitise themselves to nuance and meaning, to the whole tenor** of an era, the full character of a person. Their finest insights are intuitive as well as rational, holistic as well as particular; and therefore always invitations to debate. As they write, they incite; they expect disagreement and they try to furnish their readers with the grounds for offering it. Footnotes are not defensive displays of pedantry***; they are honest expressions of vulnerability, they are generous signposts to anyone who wants to retrace the path and test the insights, they are acknowledgements of the collective enterprise that is history. Historians feed off the power of the past, exploiting its potency just as historical novelists do, but historians also constantly discuss the ethics of doing that.

Source continues on page 3

Source (continued)

To whom are we responsible – to the people in our stories, to our sources, to our informants, to our readers and audiences, to the integrity of the past itself? How do we pay our respects, allow for dissent, accommodate complexity, distinguish between our voice and those of our characters? The professional paraphernalia of history has grown out of these ethical questions...

TOM GRIFFITHS

Extract from *History and the Creative Imagination*, a lecture delivered at
The University of Melbourne, 2008

* alchemical: *miraculously transforming*
** tenor: *mood, trend of thought*
*** pedantry: *excessive attention to detail*

Question 1 (25 marks)

To what extent is the work of historians a ‘craft of discipline and imagination’?

Support your response with explicit references to the Source and at least TWO other relevant sources.

Please turn over

Section II

25 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of an appropriate case study
 - engage with the historiography of the areas of debate selected for discussion
 - present a sustained, logical and cohesive response
-

Question 2 (25 marks)

As historians, we must tell what we find. But what we find is inevitably distinctive, individual, political and personal.

PENNY RUSSELL, 2004

Acknowledgement: © Penny Russell, reproduced with permission

Using this statement, assess how interpretations of history are shaped by the contexts of historians.

In your response, use at least ONE area of debate from your chosen case study. Identify your case study at the beginning of your answer.

End of paper