



BOARD OF STUDIES  
NEW SOUTH WALES

2011

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATION

WRITING BOOKLET

Examination

History Extension
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Section	Part	Question Number
1		1

Date

3/11/11
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Number of booklets  
used for this question

1/3
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**Instructions**

- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page.
- In the boxes provided write the name and date of this examination, and the number(s) of the question(s) attempted in this booklet.
- If you have not attempted the question, you must still hand in the Writing Booklet, with the words 'NOT ATTEMPTED' written clearly on the front cover.
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Within Eric Foner's *Who Owns History? Rethinking the Past in a Changing World*, Foner ~~displays an~~ displays an entirely post-modernist conception on who owns history. Foner explores the ~~const.~~ historians' constant search for "new perspectives", in response to "new ~~quest~~ questions & cultural imperatives" revealing that the ~~work~~ of historiography is ~~const. const.~~ consistently changing as a result of new historians within "each generation". However, Foner makes the implicit assumption that historical truth does not exist in a "scientific sense", which is at odds with the Empiricist view of ~~absol~~ absolute truth. Moreover, Foner also argues that ~~form~~ historians should <sup>engage</sup> ~~engage~~ with the larger ~~public~~ public, revealing that "historians had an obligation to contribute to debates in history" so as to engage with the public & inform ~~the~~ the public. ~~Finally~~ Moreover, Foner ~~finally~~ ~~concludes~~ that reveals that ~~histo~~ it is not only historians who own history, but "everyone & no one".

as Foner highlights the ever evolving study of the past to a "never-ending journey of discovery." Ultimately, Foner explores the ~~concept~~ of his historian's role in the <sup>cons</sup> ~~construction~~ <sup>"purpose"</sup> of history, revealing the ~~dicto~~ dichotomy between that of Post-Modernism & Empiricism ~~as~~ historians attempt to ~~establish truth~~ as they question the historians ~~role~~ "ownership" of history, while exploring the role of ~~our~~ ~~own~~ engagement.

Foner, express a significantly post-modernist tone throughout the source, ~~and~~ & would be thus largely supported in Foner's ~~assumptions~~ of who owns history by Keith Jenkins & Foucault. Within the source, Foner expresses ~~that~~ the 'history' to be the constant "search for new perspectives"; this is largely supported within ~~the~~ Jenkins Rethinking History, 1991, as Jenkins explores history to relative to the historian who writes the history, revealing the impact of context upon historian. This highlights the inherent nature

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of history to be owned by that historian, as he is the historian is affected by the context. Furthermore, Foner is supported in his perspective history being an approximation of the past, as Foucault within Foucault's, the Archaeology of Knowledge 1969, ~~for~~ Foucault highlights that historians do not have ~~the~~ direct access to the past and thus impose their own explanation of history upon the reader, ~~and illustrating~~ ~~that~~ history to be owned by the historian. Ultimately, Foner ~~is~~ is supported in his view of history ~~being~~ ~~own~~ by post modernists, who ~~however~~ highlight ~~history to be contradict~~ Foner is highlight support the historians ownership of history.

However, Foner would be in contradiction of the fundamental Empiricist Leopold Von Ranke as no one owns history. Foner argues that truth in a scientific sense is unattainable, however which ~~with~~ Leopold with his Histories of Latin & Germanic Nations 1824, argue

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in the ~~attainment~~ attainability of absolute & scientific Truth. Dr Leopold argues that ~~if an historian~~ ~~is~~ an historian can achieve ~~obj~~ truth through ~~their~~ ~~thorough~~ analysis & ~~research~~ research allowing truth to emerge from facts, enforcing a strong emphasis of documents & evidence. ~~This~~ ~~argues~~ further Leopold argues that one can achieve ~~strict~~ objectivity through strict ~~methodology~~ analysis of sources, highlighting that the historians do not own history but rather that historians merely account for history as history has ownership of its self. Ultimately, Foner is disputed by Empiricist in their view of history being owned by history, as historians are able to achieve objectivity, thus removing "ownership" over history.

Nevertheless, Foner is supported by the Critics of Empiricism, particularly that of E.H. Carr. Foner argues that "history will always be

rewritten", which is largely supported by E.H. Carr in What is History? 1961, when in which Carr argues that ~~a determinist view of history, stating that history is not just the study~~ that history is entirely relative to the historian, & that as society changes so will what will be accepted ~~by historians~~ as history within society. Moreover, Foner is again supported by Carr, as Carr suggest that history is relative to the historian who writes it as new political & social & cultural imperatives" surface. Ultimately, Foner's ~~argument~~ belief in history being a result of changing context is supported by Carr, who argues that history is & owned by that of the historian.

~~Yet Foner will be in contradiction~~  
 Yet, Foner is in while Foner realises ~~the importance of the debates~~  
 & over history are

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In Yet Foner will find himself at odds with the defenders of history who argue

Yet Foner will find himself at odds with the defenders of history. who argue is the white Foner does express ~~so~~ acknowledgement of thankfulness

furthermore, Foner is ~~sup~~ reveals history to be owned by that of the public, ~~as~~ this belief in historians not owning history, but rather the public is largely supported by that of Hayden White in Historiography & Historiography. In this work, White coined the phrase Historiography which ~~is~~ means history that is designed to engage with the audience, histor "engagement for the sake of enjoyment" as White believes that, if history doesn't engage the audience then it won't be read, supporting Foner's view of history as a public function.

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Moreover, JH Hexter in his Rhetoric of History supports Foner further in the belief that history should be ~~eng~~ engaging. Hexter argues that narratives are the most appropriate way in which historians are able to engage with the audience & answer "how" & "why" questions, occur within history. Hexter further paradoxically suggests that "maximum accuracy & correctness is not always essential when telling the reader what happened", supporting Foner. Further Herodotus in The Histories 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC, ~~it~~ again supports Foner's argument of engaging as Herodotus included myths & legends, ~~so~~ ~~to~~ to "put on record achievements", due to his context of history being recounted orally or orally, engaging in "public discourse". ~~Finally~~ Ultimately, it can be seen that Foner's argument of ~~history~~ history being owned by the public is largely supported throughout history.

Evidently, it is revealed throughout



history, & foner's source that a dichotomy exist between that of the historians ownership of history foner concludes his argument with a question "Who owns history's, everyone & no one" revealing the complex nature of history. However ~~the~~ Post of history, with a questioning history as a Post modernist. However Empiricist & argue ~~later~~ that historians are able to detach themselves from history, revealing history to be governed by itself. Moreover, history is revealed be be governed 'by the public to as the study of history has a public function. Ultimately, the historians role ~~within~~ within history & its ~~own~~ their ownership is revealed to lie between Post Modernist, who argue in historians ownership, & empiricist who argue history owns history, as historians attempts to reconcile the ~~pk~~ public's ~~own~~ own interest through engagement.

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