



BOARD OF STUDIES  
NEW SOUTH WALES

2011

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATION

## WRITING BOOKLET

Examination

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| Extension History |
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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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Start here.

The argument pertaining to whether or not historians 'own' history is one that can indeed be approached from several different angles. However, the extent to which historians 'own' history is one that ~~is~~<sup>I</sup> view ~~from~~ from a fencepost position. While historians do 'own' history to a certain extent, it is also essential that non-professional analysis and contribution to historical discovery, discussion and debate is encouraged, ~~and~~ appreciated and **acknowledged**.

The ownership of history by historians is of course essential when the aspect of professionalism and the need of an expert is required. As the source states:

"History will always be regularly rewritten, in response to new questions, new information, new methodologies, and new political, social and cultural imperatives."

Which bring understanding to the fact that in order to draw an effective conclusion from history, one must be in possession of expert knowledge and opinion in regards to effects of the common time and its relation to the previous time. In this sense, historians do indeed 'own' history as

they are the only ones capable of reaching an informed and educated conclusion. This point is further backed up by the historical contribution of Karl Marx in the 1860s. Marx's theory in regards to history and the progression of society could only be properly reached and expressed by an historian with exact knowledge of history. His theory focussed on the connection between the economical and political makeup of society, and the progression of history itself. His belief was that once humanity reached socialism, political, economical and historical development would cease. Now this conclusion could not have possibly been reached with such exactitude were it not for Marx's vast historical knowledge and analysis. It is in this sense that historians do, to an extent, 'own' history.

However, having said that, there are also detrimental factors in having historians 'own' history and hence the reason why they do not. The source states:

"There are commonly accepted professional standards that enable us to distinguish good history from falsehoods"

while it is the assumption that a recount given

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or a conclusion reached by an historian must be reliable and more informed than another person in a different profession; the possible bias of the historian, outside influences or intentions and agendas of the historian must be acknowledged.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.