**Sourcework Skills**

**Student-friendly mark schemes**

NOTE: The following mark schemes are **based on** those provided by the Cambridge IGCSE examinations. However, for ease of understanding and application, I mark most questions out of 5 marks, an provide level descriptors which my students find much easier to follow.

**General Tips**

▪ **Timings:** the Paper 2 Sourcework exam is 1 hour 45 minutes, and there are five questions. So aim to spend 15-20 minutes on the first four questions, and slightly longer on the final one.

▪ **Two Paragraphs** - to structure your responses (at least TWO paragraphs per answer, sometimes with a brief conclusion)

▪ **Substantiate** - your points with references to provenance, content & background knowledge.

▪ **Focus** - On the question: don't just say everything you can about the sources

**1. “One Source in Isolation”**

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| **What is the message of Source A?** | | |
| L1 | Summarises what the source says. | 1 |
| L2 | **One-sided** answer: identifies main message of the source | 2-3 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer: identifies main message and sub-message of the source | 4-5 |
| [award marks within the band based on quality of substantiating detail from the source / background knowledge] | | |

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| **How far does Source A prove that…?** | | |
| L1 | **One-sided** answer, focusing on either content (similarities / differences in what each source says) or provenance (circumstances in which they were produced). | 1 |
| L2 | One-sided answer, focusing on both content (similarities / differences in what each source says) and provenance (circumstances in which they were produced). | 2 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer, focusing on either content (similarities / differences in what each source says) or provenance (circumstances in which they were produced). | 3 |
| L4 | Two-sided answer, focusing on both content (similarities / differences in what each source says) and provenance (circumstances in which they were produced). | 4 |
| L5 | As L4, plus a brief conclusion on “how far” | 5 |

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| **How reliable is this source as evidence about …?**  **Do you think that the writer was lying in this source?** | | |
| L1 | One-sided answer, based on EITHER content (background knowledge suggests it is correct / incorrect / incomplete) OR provenance (comes from a trustworthy author) | 1 |
| L2 | One-sided answer, based on BOTH content (background knowledge suggests it is correct / incorrect / incomplete) AND provenance (comes from a trustworthy author) | 2 |
| L3 | Two-sided answer, based on EITHER content (background knowledge suggests it is correct / incorrect / incomplete) OR provenance (comes from a trustworthy author) | 3 |
| L4 | Two-sided answer, based on BOTH content (background knowledge suggests it is correct / incorrect / incomplete) AND provenance (comes from a trustworthy author) | 4 |
| L5 | As L4, plus a brief conclusion on “how far” | 5 |

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| **Why was this source produced in this particular year?** | | |
| L1 | Description / summary of source(s), unsubstantiated assertions, misinterpretations. | 0 |
| L3 | One-sided answer based on content (using background knowledge to outline what was going on at that particular moment in time) **or** provenance (what was the purpose of the author). | 1-2 |
| L4 | Two-sided answer based on content **and** provenance. | 3-4 |
| L5 | As L4, plus a brief conclusion. | 5 |
| **Tip**: The more specific you can be about the events of the particular year, the better. | | |

**2. “Two Sources compared”**

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| **How different are these two sources?**  **How far do these two sources agree?**  **How similar are the messages of these two sources?**  **How far do these two sources have the same message?**  **How far would these two cartoonists have agreed with each other?** | | |
| L1 | Description / summary of source(s) or unsubstantiated assertions | 1 |
| L3 | Agreement(s) OR disagreement(s) identified but not backed up with quotes | 2 |
| L3 | Agreement(s) OR disagreement(s) identified AND backed up with quotes | 3 |
| L4 | Agreement(s) AND disagreement(s) identified but not backed up with quotes | 4 |
| L5 | Agreement(s) AND disagreement(s) identified AND backed up with quotes | 5 |

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| **Does Source A prove that the Source B is wrong?**  **After reading Source A, are you surprised by Source B?**  **Do these two sources show that the author changed his mind?**  **Does the second source prove that the author was lying in the first source?** | | |
| L1 | **One-sided** answer: answers based on **EITHER** content (“yes, because the first source says something different…”) **OR** provenance (“yes, because the first source is more reliable…”) | 1 |
| L2 | **One-sided** answer: answers based on **BOTH** content (“yes, because the first source says something different…”) **AND** provenance (“yes, because the first source is more reliable…”) | 2 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer: answers based on **EITHER** content (“yes, because the first source says something different…but in some ways they also say similar things…”) **OR** provenance (“in some ways yes, because the first source is more reliable…but on the other hand in some ways the second source is more reliable…”) | 3 |
| L4 | **Two-sided** answer: answers based on **BOTH** content (“At face value yes, because the sources say rather different things…”) **AND** provenance (“however, these differences can be explained by the different circumstances in which they were produced…”) | 4 |
| L5 | As L4, but with conclusion on “how far” (e.g. “in conclusion, superficially it appears that the second source is unreliable by comparing differences in their content, but these differences can be explained through reference to their provenance”). | 5 |

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| **Which of these two sources is more reliable?**  **Which of these sources provides the more accurate view of …?** | | |
| L1 | **One-sided** answer: answers based on **EITHER** content (“The first source is less reliable, because other sources show it is not giving the full story…”) **OR** provenance (“The first source is less reliable, because it comes from an untrustworthy author…”) | 1 |
| L2 | **One-sided** answer: answers based on **BOTH** content (“The first source is less reliable, because it is not giving the full story…”) **AND** provenance (“The first source is also less reliable, because it comes from an untrustworthy author…”) | 2 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer: answers based on **EITHER** content “The first source is less reliable, because it is not giving the full story…In contrast the second source is more reliable, because what it says is backed up in other sources…”) **OR** provenance (“The first source is less reliable, because it comes from an untrustworthy author…In contrast, the second source is more reliable, because it comes from a trustworthy author”) | 3 |
| L4 | **Two-sided** answer: answers based on **BOTH** content (“At face value, the first source is more reliable, because what it says is backed up in other sources …”) **AND** provenance (“However, in contrast, the second source is more reliable, because it comes from a more trustworthy author”) | 4 |
| L5 | As L4, but with conclusion on “how far” (“in conclusion, superficially it appears that the second source is unreliable by comparing differences in their content, but these differences can be explained through reference to their provenance”). | 5 |

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| **How far do these two sources prove that…?** | | |
| L1 | **One-sided** answer based on **EITHER** content (“Yes they do, because they both agree that…”) **OR** provenance (“No, they don’t because they are both from untrustworthy authors…”) | 1 |
| L2 | **One-sided** answer based on **BOTH** content (“No they don’t, because they don’t agree about…”) **AND** provenance (“Moreover, they are both from untrustworthy authors…”) | 2 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer based on **EITHER** content (“At face value yes they do, because they both agree that…However, in other ways they disagree…”) **OR** provenance (“No, they don’t because they are both from untrustworthy authors…However, on the other hand they could also be described as reliable because…”) | 3 |
| L4 | **Two-sided** answer based on **BOTH** content (“At face value yes they do, because they both agree that …”) **AND** provenance (“However, on balance they don’t because they are both from untrustworthy authors…”) | 4 |
| L5 | As L4, but with conclusion on “how far” | 5 |

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| **Why do these two sources disagree about…?** | | |
| L1 | Summarises what the source says. | 1 |
| L2 | **One-sided** answer: provides **ONE** main reason based on provenance / background knowledge (“The reason they disagree is that each author were writing in very different times / places and had their own personal bias…”) | 2-3 |
| L3 | **Two-sided** answer: provides **TWO** reasons based on provenance / background knowledge (“The reason they disagree is that each author were writing in very different times / places… Moreover, they had their own personal bias…”) | 4-5 |
| Award marks within the band based on quality of substantiating detail from the sources / background knowledge. | | |

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| **5. Study all the sources.**  How far do you agree that…? Remember to evaluate the sources you use. [10] | |
| No valid source use. | 1 |
| One-sided answer: sources used to support or reject the statement, but little use of quotes / details from the sources | 2-3 |
| One-sided answer: sources used to support or reject the statement, with use of quotes / details from the sources | 4-5 |
| Two-sided answer: sources used to support or reject the statement, but little use of quotes / details from the sources | 6-7 |
| Two-sided answer: sources used to support or reject the statement, with use of quotes / details from the sources | 8-9 |
| Add a bonus mark for any answer in L2-L5 which has an overall concluding sentence (which can be ‘yes’ or ‘no’ based on the balance of evidence presented). | 10 Max |

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.