IB European History

Mrs. Barnes

Paper 1—DBQ Skills

**Question 11**

Question 11 will ask you to compare and contrast two different sources. You should take 1**5 minutes** for your answer.  Question 11 is worth of 6 marks, but it is *not* graded with a check-off system like questions 9 and 10. It will be graded holistically with a markband.  So, like bigger compare and contrast essays, the quality of your answer determines your score.  The question will be phrased something close to “Compare and contrast what Sources \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ reveal about the significance of the \_\_\_. (6 marks)”

Your answer should be organized in two parts – one for similarities and one for differences.  IB expects “linkage;” that is, you are expected to discuss the sources together throughout your response and the examiner is looking for running commentary. At no time should you talk about one source without relating it to the other.

In your response consider the following concepts; change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance and perspectives.   Question 11 is more about content.  So, in Question 11 do *not* compare the types of sources. You don’t need a thesis or conclusion, just good quality similarities and differences with specific proof from the documents where necessary.

Organize your writing:  You should write in paragraph form. “The first similarity is that both sources reveal …”  The more specific your similarities and differences, the higher you’ll score on the markband. Remember **prove** everything you write with **specific examples from the source.**However, be careful not to over quote.  IB penalizes papers consisting of long, drawn out quotes.  Only quote the word or words you are analyzing or simply paraphrase in your own words.

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| **Paragraph One: Draw comparisons and show similarities using these sentence starters** | **Paragraph Two: Draw contrasts and show differences using theses sentence starters** |
| Both source A and source B… | Source A suggests…However, source B says… |
| Source A suggests…Similarly, source B suggests… | Source B disagrees with source A regarding… |
| Source A supports source B by… | Source A claims…, as opposed to source B which asserts… |
| Like source B, source A says… | Source B goes further than source A in arguing… |

**Here are a few hints of *what* *to do.***

* The examiner is looking for running commentary. In your commentary, you must address the source directly.
* Question 11 is an explication exercise comparing source meaning.  To answer this question, you need to juxtapose words or short phrases side by side.  Thus for this question you need to employ words such as, “while, whereas, although, etc.”
* You should write in paragraph form.
* Aim for a 3/3 split or a 4/2 split in similarities and differences

**Here are a few hints of *what* *not to do!***

* At no time should you talk about one source without relating it to the other.
* Be careful not to over quote.
* IB penalizes papers consisting of long, drawn out quotes.  Only quote the word or words you are analyzing. Similarly, lists and charts do not score well.

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| Marks | Level descriptor |
| 5-6 | There is discussion of both sources. Explicit links are made between the two sources.  The response includes clear and valid points of comparison and of contrast. |
| 3-4 | There is some discussion of both sources, although the two sources may be  discussed separately.  The response includes some valid points of comparison and/or of contrast,  although these points may lack clarity. |
| 1-2 | There is superficial discussion of one or both sources.  The response consists of description of the content of the source(s), and/or  general comments about the source(s), rather than valid points of comparison  or of contrast. |
| 0 | The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors above. |

Examiners are reminded of the need to apply the mark bands that provide the ‘best fit’ to the responses given by candidates and to award credit wherever it is possible to do so.

Notes for Understanding: