**Edexcel A-Level History**

**Papers 1 and 3 – establishing and using criteria**

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On the mark schemes for all the new Edexcel A-Level papers, there is a requirement to **establish and use criteria** in your judgements. This just means showing the examiner how you can **measure the extent** of something.

But this is not hard to do - it simply means *being clear about the reasons* for the judgements you make!

Here are some thoughts for how you can do this on Papers 1 and 3…….

**Change/Continuity, Significance, and Similarity/Difference criteria** (to judge the extent)

\* Amount of people affected – consider social class, geographical spread, age and gender

\* Length of change or impact – short or long term?

\* Deep difference or lots of progress compared to previous situation – eg: in attitudes or policies

\* Speed or pace – happened quickly or slowly over time?

\* Effectiveness – accepted or resisted?

\* Level of threat to the status quo



**Consequence criteria** (to judge the most significant consequence)

\* Speed or pace – effects happened quickly or slowly over time?

\* Effectiveness – accepted or resisted? Achieved aims?

\* Coherence/consistency – stayed the same or adapted?

\* Lead to or connected to other effects

**Causation criteria** (to judge the most significant cause)

\* Connections to other causes

\* Presence in a range of factors

\* Level of threat to the status quo

\* Trigger – present for a short time, but without it the event or change may not have happened when it did

\* Underlying – present for a long time and created the conditions for an event or change to happen

The criteria you use will *depend on the conceptual focus* of the questions and the topic focus

Don’t overdo it – keep to *around 3 criteria* for any one question

For some questions, you *could structure your answer* around the criteria

In reaching a judgement, you should also evaluate the **relative significance** of criteria – for example in judging the extent of change you might conclude that something which affects all social classes is more significant than something that lasts a long time (or vice versa!)