

NATIONAL 5 HISTORY

‘Evaluate the usefulness of a source’ questions

- This is a 5 OR 6 mark question
- You get up to 2 marks for judging the usefulness of what the source says (CONTENT)
- You can get up to 2 marks for explaining important points that the source does not mention (recall) = limitation
- You can get up to 2 final marks for commenting on the usefulness of the author, purpose OR timing.

Content	Comment	Marks
Source A/B is useful for telling us about ... because it says... <i>(Quote a <u>key point</u> from the source)</i>	This shows that (explain) and is accurate/biased because I know that ... <i>Which make it useful.</i>	1
The source also says <i>(Quote another <u>key point</u> from the source)</i>	This is accurate/biased because ...	1
Two important omissions	Comment	
Point 1 <i>"However, the source is <u>limited/less useful because it fails to mention...</u>" (key point 1)</i> Point 2 It is also less useful because it does not mention (key point 2)	Explanation 1 <i>(explain in detail a <u>piece of knowledge</u> that helps to answer the question but is not mentioned in the source)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relevant</i> • <i>Accurate</i> • <i>Detailed</i> Explanation 2 R.A.D.	2
Origin and purpose - 1 or 2 of these, depending on marks	Comment	
Author: <i>The source was written by ... This makes it useful/less useful because ...</i>	<i>Explain why the author is well qualified to write the source (or not ... you may feel it is less useful because he/she is biased)</i>	1
OR Purpose:	<i>Explain why you think the source was written and comment.</i>	1
OR Timing: (year the source was produced AND whether primary or secondary source)	<i>Explain what the significance of the date is in relation to the question</i>	1

Writing frame

Source A is very/quite useful as evidence of ... (key words from question)

because it says " " (quote a key point from source). This is accurate /not very accurate/biased because I know that

....., which makes it useful/less useful.

It is also useful because it says

" ". This is accurate/not very accurate/biased because

....., which makes it useful/less useful.

The source is less useful because it fails to mention a key point, which is

*.....
.....
.....(key RAD point)*

It is also less useful because it does not mention another important point

*.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....(key RAD point 2)*

*The source is useful/less useful because it was written by
..... (author) who is qualified to write /not
qualified/biased about this event/development because
.....*

*It is also useful/less useful because it is a primary/secondary source
written in (year), which was the time when
..... (relate to question).*

NB: If it is a **secondary source** you can say that it was written or made with the benefit of hindsight and with access to different sources of evidence, making it reliable.

If the source was written by a historian, you can say that they will be an expert in this period of history and will be qualified to write about it in a knowledgeable way, looking at different sources of information before forming an opinion.

You could also comment on the purpose of the source - why it was written and why that might make it useful for telling us about the event or development.