

PEACE EDUCATION SCOTLAND



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OBJECTIVITY QUESTIONS



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To what extent **is it accurate**....?

These are source questions

Modern Studies Higher - Paper 2 has three types of questions:

- To what extent **is it accurate**....? Objectivity questions (10 marks)
- What **conclusions** can be drawn...? Conclusions questions (10 marks)
- To what extent **are the sources reliable**....? Reliability questions (8 marks)

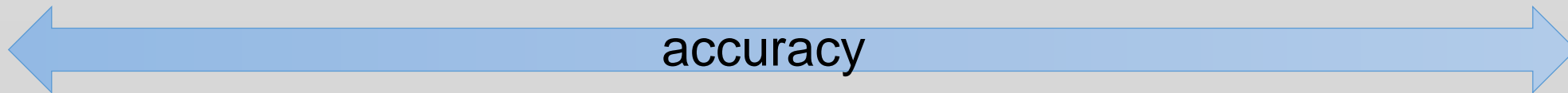
How accurate is the statement?

With these questions you are to show the accuracy of the statement, using the sources.

For example:

“To what extent is it accurate to state that efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons have been **successful**?” (question 2, paper 2, 2019)

- Have efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons been **successful**?



Quite
unsuccessful

The efforts have
had little success

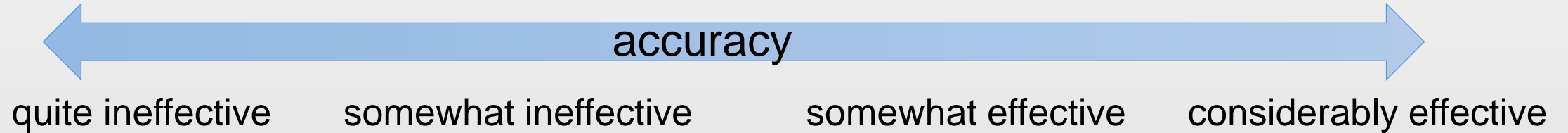
The efforts have been
quite successful

The efforts have
been considerably
successful

“To what extent is it accurate to state that Russia **effectively** protects the rights of its citizens?”

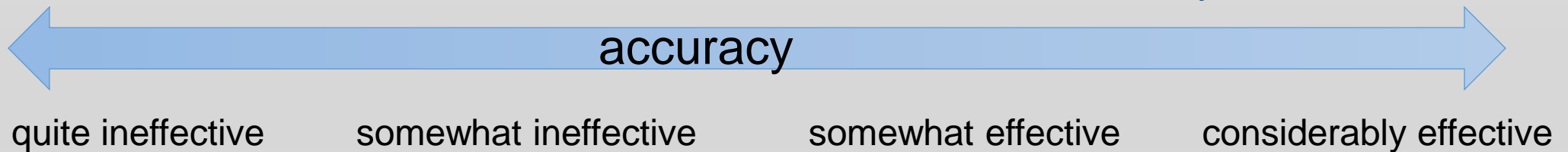
question ,2 specimen paper 2, 2018

- Does Russia **effectively** protect the rights of its citizens?



“To what extent is it accurate to state that the Scottish Parliament’s committees fulfil their roles **effectively**” question 2, 2018

- Do the Scottish Parliament’s committees fulfil their role **effectively**?



Structuring the answer

- Using ALL the sources provide arguments for **and** against the statement. (gaining up to 8 marks)
- For each argument make a detailed point and try to include an evaluation (gaining up to 3 marks)
- Make an overall conclusion about the extent to which it is accurate (gaining up to 2 marks)

Structuring the answer

“To what extent is it accurate to state that efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons have been successful?”

Question 2, Paper 2, 2019

An example of a possible structure:

- A paragraph supporting the statement.

give 2 pieces of evidence that efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons have been successful

- A paragraph opposing the statement

give 2 pieces of evidence that efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons have NOT been successful

(contd...)

Structuring the answer

then either

- Another paragraph supporting **OR** another paragraph opposing the statement with another piece of evidence
- A final paragraph to conclude. Your conclusion, using evaluative language, will depend on whether you have:

two paragraphs supporting the statement and one opposing

or

two paragraphs opposing the statement and one supporting eg.

- Support
- Oppose
- Support
- Conclusion in support

- Oppose
- Support
- Oppose
- Conclusion in opposition

Finding the evidence

It can be helpful to use highlighter pens (or underline and dashed underline) to sort out the support and oppose evidence. For example question 2, paper 2, Modern Studies Higher 2019 source B

“The process of nuclear disarmament has also faced setbacks in the Middle East where Donald Trump has withdrawn from Barack Obama’s 2015 deal with Iran that would have seen UN weapons inspectors enter Iran to ensure that they are not developing nuclear weapons. Many fear that this will lead Iran’s president, Hassan Rouhani to resume aspects of their nuclear programme. Despite both the USA and Russia meeting their New START targets, the treaty remains controversial. Trump has called the new START treaty a ‘*bad deal*’ which is ‘*one-sided*’. The treaty will expire in 2021 and so far there has been no initial discussion between the USA and Russia on what could replace it. Whilst some commentators are fearful that Trump will refuse to sign a new deal, others suggest that this is only ‘*bluster*’ and that the advantages and successes of the New START deal so far will improve the likelihood of a renewal of the treaty.”

Using the evidence

Example paragraph supporting the statement

Support for the statement is evidenced by the reduction in the number of nuclear warheads. Source B states that both the USA and Russia have met their New START targets. These targets were outlined in Source A with ‘the USA and Russia agreed to reduce their number of strategic warheads.’

Source B goes on to suggest that the ‘advantages and successes’ of the New START treaty will increase the probability of it being renewed. This will mean a continuation of the decrease in the number of nuclear weapons and therefore a reduction in their threat.

Using the evidence

Example paragraph opposing the statement

Opposition to the statement is evidenced by a growing lack of support for international treaties by nuclear weapon states. Source B states that USA has withdrawn from its 2015 deal with Iran which aimed to ensure that Iran was not developing nuclear weapons. Also, in Source A, five nuclear weapon states refused to attend negotiations in 2017 on the treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Although this was approved by 122 countries, the nuclear states with the most nuclear weapons were not willing to participate. This shows a reluctance to make nuclear weapons globally illegal by those who have them. It indicates that efforts have been on the whole unsuccessful in reducing the threat nuclear weapons pose.

Conclusion (overall judgement)

Example conclusions (making two points for two marks)

Overall it is mostly accurate to state that efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons has been successful. Although there has been an increase in the number of countries with nuclear weapons, the total number of warheads globally has dramatically reduced between 1985 and 2017 from over 60,000 to under 10,000 as shown in source B. The reduction in warheads and the global consensus against them as shown in Source A with 122 countries approving the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, means the efforts to reduce threat have, on the whole, been successful.

or

Overall it is mostly inaccurate to state that the efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons has been successful. Although there has been a reduction in the numbers, the threat has heightened as shown in source B, 'tensions and uncertainty in international diplomacy have increased.' with provocative tweets from the President of the United States stating that his nuclear button works. When there are nuclear weapons in the world, coupled with international tensions, there continues to be a very real threatening danger of them being used to devastating effect.

Remember to check

Have you used evidence from all sources?

Have you given evidence in support **and** in opposition to the statement?

Have you used evaluative language in the conclusion?

In the conclusion make sure you have NOT used absolutes, such as 'is accurate' or 'is not accurate'.

Use terms such as considerably accurate, largely accurate, mostly accurate

or

considerably inaccurate, quite inaccurate, only true to a small extent.