How to answer different types of questions in Paper 1 (Russia or USA + New World)

'Describe' questions (4 marks):

These will usually start with 'Describe', 'What was' or 'What caused' at the start of the question, however, you will know it is a describe question because it is worth 4 marks.

How to answer them; You need to either state 4 relevant facts related to what the question is asking or 2-3 relevant facts with some supporting historical detail or explanation.

'Explain' questions (6 or 8 marks):

These questions will usually start with the word 'Explain' and will either be worth 6 or 8 marks.

How to answer them; There are many ways to answer these questions, but the best way we think is by using a P.E.E structure. The reason for this is because lots of people tend to know the relevant reasons, but often forget to explain how these things relate to the questions. For example, the causes of the Iraq war are; Oil, WMDs, links to Al-Qaeda, Democracy and Saddam Hussein's poor human rights record. Lots of people can remember this, but may forget to explain how each of these things actually would cause America to invade.

Point: Making a statement about a relevant reason;

"One of the main causes of the Iraq War was Oil'

Evidence; Expanding on the mentioned reason using contextual knowledge

"Five of the ten largest oil reserves in the world are in the Middle East and Iraq is an oil rich nation and which is has a significant oil industry. At the time of the invasion (2003), oil prices were rising around the world and many countries were looking to secure future supplies."

Explanation: tying the reason you have described using CK back to the original question using an obvious sentence starter;

"This could have made America consider invading Iraq because through invading and removing Saddam Hussein they could potentially have secured long term oil security. This was confirmed when America took control of Iraq's oil fields before even removing Saddam from power, an arrangement which lasted a long time. Not only this, but the British Foreign secretary, David Miliband, signed a long term oil deal with the Kurds in the North of Iraq after the invasion was complete. The government would be unlikely to mention this reason publicly, as it would reflect badly on the government"

'How Far' questions (10 marks):

There are 3-4 different types of 'How Far' questions which can be included in your exam. They all require a multi-sided argument and, if you want the top marks, an evaluative conclusion. Here I will summarise how to answer these questions for you;

Type 1: Classic

How far was _____ the main reason for _____? (10 marks)

Intro sentence (express that there are other reasons as well – partly)
Use a PEE paragraph to explain the factor given in the Q in relation to the Q
Use a PEE paragraph to explain another reason (from your CK)
Use another PEE paragraph to explain another reason (from your CK)
Evaluative conclusion (this is where you debate which factor(s) played the bigger role and justify which one(s) you believe to be more important. You can also argue that they are equally important!)

IF THE QUESTION IS HOW FAR WAS _____ A SUCCESS OR FAILURE THEN YOU NEED TO USE 2 PEE PARAGRAPHS FOR EACH SIDE

Type 2: Statement

"_____ was the main reason for _____"
How far do you agree with this statement? (10 marks)

Intro sentence (partly/partially agree with the statement)
2 PEE paragraphs showing agreement with the statement
2 PEE paragraphs showing disagreement with the statement
Evaluative conclusion (this is where you debate which factor(s) played the bigger role and justify which one(s) you believe to be more important. You can also argue that they are equally important!)

Type 3: Factors given

"The following factors were equally important in causing _____
1. X
2. Y
3. Z"
How far do you agree with the above statement (10 marks)

Intro sentence (give your overall opinion, equal? One factor played more of a role?)
Use a PEE paragraph to explain the first factor
Use a PEE paragraph to explain the second factor
Use a PEE paragraph to explain the third factor
Evaluative conclusion (this is where you debate which factor(s) played the bigger role and justify which one(s) you believe to be more important. You can also argue that they are equally important!)

'Message of' questions (6 or 7 marks):

These will always start with 'What is the message of' and are always worth either 6 or 7 marks. They are mostly worth 7 marks, but occasionally the exam board need to drop a mark from a question to make the total worth 75 marks + 6 for SPAG.

How to answer them; Always make sure your first sentence is focused on the answer.

State the overall message in 1 sentence (taking into account the entire cartoon)

"The message of the cartoon is…"

Support this by explaining 2 details of the cartoon, either using common sense and/or CK

"I know this because in the cartoon I can see…"
"This is meant to represent/show"

Use your own knowledge to explain the situation surrounding the cartoon further by discussing what was happening at the time the cartoon was produced

"Something I know that helps explain this cartoon further is…"
"This helps us understand the cartoon because…"

'Why was this published' questions (6 or 7 marks):

These will always start with 'Why was this published' and will always be worth either 6 or 7 marks. They are mostly worth 7 marks but occasionally the exam board need to drop a mark from a question to make the total worth 75 marks + 6 for SPAG.

How to answer them; Always make sure your first sentence is focused on the answer.

State why the document/cartoon/poster/painting was published in 1 sentence

"I believe this _____ was published because…"

Use your CK to explain the situation surrounding the cartoon and link this back to why whoever published it did at this time

"At this time…" (describe what was happening at the time)
"This means that _____ would want to publish it because…" (explain how this would affect the authors' perspective)

Explain how the source helped you figure out the purpose

"The source shows…"
"This would make the viewer think…"

'Are you surprised' questions (6 or 7 marks):

These answers require a two sided answer. So in effect you are surprised and you are also not surprised. Sounds silly I know. They are mostly worth 7 marks, but occasionally the exam board need to drop a mark from a question to make the total worth 75 marks + 6 for SPAG.

How to answer them;

Opening statement which shows you are both surprised and not surprised

"I am partially surprised by the content of source ___"

Use CK to briefly describe the situation surrounding the source

"This source is making reference to…"

Explain why you are surprised by something in the source by using SD and CK

"One aspect of the source which I find surprising is… QUOTE"
"This is surprising to me because…"

Explain why you are also not surprised by something in the source by using SD and CK

"However, I am also not surprised when the source states… QUOTE"
"This does not come as a surprise to me because…"

Concluding sentence

'How useful is this source' questions (6 or 7 marks):

These questions require you to follow a simple 3 step process.

Explain why what the source shows us is useful based on SD

"The source is useful because it shows historians that…"
"This is useful because…"

Explain how reliable (or not) the source is using relevant W questions

"I believe this source is/isn't reliable because…" (who/when/why)
"This makes it useful/limited in use because…"

Explain the limitations of what the source shows by using your CK to expand

"The source is also limited in use because it doesn't show us other reasons/things such as…" (then use CK to expand on other reasons/things)

'How far does this source prove XXXXXX' questions (6 or 7 marks):

How to answer them;

Describe what the source shows in short

"The source shows us…"

Explain whether this agrees with your CK or not

"This agrees/disagrees with what I know because…"
"Therefore this source only partially proves XXXXXX because…"

Discuss who produced it, when and why and whether that makes it reliable

"This source was produced by _____"
"I think they produced it because…"
"This makes the source more/less reliable to us because…"

Conclusion

"Therefore, I conclude that this source does not/partially proves XXXXXX."

'How far does this source explain XXXXXX' questions (6 or 7 marks):

How to answer them;

Discuss what the source does explain

"The source shows us…"
"I know that…" (expand on the reason showing by using your CK)
"This contributed to XXXXX because"

Discuss what the source DOESN'T explain about the reason given in the question

"However, this source only gives us limited information about XXXXX"
"This is because it doesn't show us…"
"This contributed to XXXXXX because…"
"It also doesn't tell us…"
"This caused XXX because…"

Conclusion

"Therefore, I conclude that this source partially explains."