How to: accuracy

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Daily Review
We are going to learn about how to answer an Accuracy style question today. These questions have some similarities with Support and Oppose questions at N5. In the space below write down everything you can remember about how you would answer a Support and Oppose question.

Learning Intentions
- I am learning how to answer Accuracy style questions.

Success Criteria
- I can correctly structure an Accuracy style question.
- I can select relevant information from sources.
- I can synthesise relevant information from sources.

New Material

What are Accuracy Questions?

The Accuracy style question is the second of the three skills questions that you will be asked to complete in Paper 2 of the exam. This question is worth **10 marks**.

As with all source questions, this is a really good opportunity for you to gain marks in the exam as it requires no background knowledge. As long as you are confident in the answer structure you can perform well in these questions.

In an Accuracy question you will be given a statement and you need to decide how accurate the statement is.

For example, in the 2019 paper the question asks -

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

You must read the sources and extract information which shows that **the statement is accurate** and also that **the statement is not accurate.**

As mentioned previously the question is worth **10 marks**. The first **8 marks** are available for extracting information from the sources and synthesising. The other **2 marks** are available for an overall conclusion.

Some key points when answering these questions are as follows -
- As with other source questions, you must use all sources in your answer in order to access full marks. **(NB: the 2019 question that we are working on in class today has two sources, but it is important that you use all the sources, regardless of how many there are).**
- You **must address both sides of the argument**, i.e. have evidence to show that the statement is accurate and evidence to show it is not.
- There is no need to have an even balance to your answer - you could have 4 points on each side, 5-3, 7-1. **It does not matter as long as you have addressed both sides of the argument.**

The following are ways that you can get marks from the sources -

- The viewpoint is accurate/inaccurate because Source _ says … (1 mark)
- The viewpoint is accurate/inaccurate because Source _ says … This is backed up by Source _ which says … (2 marks)
- The viewpoint is accurate/inaccurate because Source _ says … This is backed up by Source _

which says … Therefore it can be seen that …
(insert evaluative comment) (3 marks)

The best answers will make use of a mixture of the above statements. It is best to use mostly statements 2 and 3. Only using statement 1 eight times will result in a weak answer as it is unlikely there will be 8 separate points.

Evaluative Comments

For the evaluation mark you must **make a judgement about the evidence you have provided.**

There are different ways you can do this. You could -
1. Look at the statistics and make a calculation, e.g. Z has decreased by a total of 10%.
2. Discuss the trends that can be seen in the evidence, e.g. can you see a majority/minority, increase/decrease?

Furthermore, a very good comment will make use of evaluative language. These are words which convey to the reader the extent of which there is a link or that something is changing.
- Significantly
- Dramatically
- Consistently
- Repeatedly
- Regularly

You should also try to use language which demonstrates what is happening in the evidence.
- Fallen/risen
- Most/least
- Increased/decreased
- Higher/lower
- More than/less than

Overall Conclusion

The final two marks in this question are for making an overall conclusion as to how accurate the given statement is. **Your conclusion should not be an absolute yes or no - it must answer the question asked (i.e. how accurate the statement given is).**

If the majority of your evidence supports the statement being accurate, then your conclusion should say that **'the statement is accurate to a significant extent'.**

If the majority of your evidence supports the statement being inaccurate, then your conclusion should say that **'the statement is accurate to a limited extent'.**

You should provide two pieces of evidence to back this up. **It is preferable to provide new evidence to back up your conclusion. However you can give a summary of what you have already said if you cannot find new evidence.**

Practice
You are now going to work on the 2019 Accuracy question. Your teacher will work through part of the question with you and then allow you to complete the question.

You will then mark this question in class.

Prove it
In order to practice this question type, you should complete the SQA Specimen Accuracy question as homework. You will be given one week to complete this question. **Your teacher will post an assignment on Teams and tell you when this is due.**

Plenary
Think about everything you have learned this lesson.
Mark how confident you feel about Accuracy questions on
the arrow below. (Orange - not confident, Green -
confident).