Model answer – Paper 1 – Section A – Q2a

How useful is Sources A and B …

(8 marks)

Content

Nature

PROVENANCE

Origin

Purpose

Contextual knowledge

Source A is a photograph of one of the first x-ray machines used in the UK. The source is not very useful for an enquiry into medical diagnosis as it only shows how large it is but does not show how they can be used for diagnosing patients. The x-ray in the photo was introduced by Dr John Macintyre. Macintyre used the x-ray machine to make a number of interesting x-rays, including one of a penny in a child’s throat and a kidney stone. X-rays were developed by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895. The rays could penetrate objects and Dr Macintyre quickly understood the significance of this for medical diagnosis. He set up one of the world’s first radiology departments in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The photo was probably produced by the hospital to show their advances in technology and to encourage more research for medical diagnosis. However, the photo fails to mention any negative side effects of using x-rays for diagnosis. The radiation patients were exposed to was 1,500 times the amount we are exposed to today, causing burns and hair loss in patients. Also, a patient would have to wait 90 minutes completely still to get an x-ray taken, making diagnosis difficult. However, the source is useful in that it shows the size and complexity of the early x-rays, meaning diagnosis was not very efficient and problems could arise from using the machine.

(4 marks – you will have to do the same for Source B)