Evidence Question: Notes and Tips

1. Questions 1 and 2 are straightforward comprehension questions. Feel free to underline the relevant points on the question paper.
2. Question 3 requires you to compare Source C with sources A and B. Start by saying what Source C is about. Say what Sources A and B are about. If the question asks you to do so draw and state your conclusion/answer in a single sentence to say which piece of evidence Source C most agrees with.
3. Question 4 is not really about the content of the sources though it can seem that way. This question is about how close to the truth each of the sources is. Take each source in turn and discuss the reasons why they should and should not be believed. Reading the caption to find out the background to each source is essential. Remember: every source is written (or painted etc) with the aim of persuading its audience. Your task is to say how close the source is to telling the truth about the topic of the evidence question. It makes sense to look for three things that can indicate bias – ‘language’, ‘balance’ and ‘background’.

Language – do the words chosen suggest that the writer favours one side over the other the other. Is there evidence of exaggeration?

Balance – does the writer mention only good things, only bad things or is it an unbiased version that mentions some of both. Remember that the source is an extract, just a part of a longer piece of writing and so it might not cover good and bad points.

Background – what do we know about the writer that might affect what we would expect him to write. Is he automatically likely to be biased because he supports one side or the other?