|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Interpretation – author and view** | *Analyse the view of the Empire* | **Author’s beliefs and background, and context of the time** |
| *Positive or negative view of Empire?* | *Does it mention impact on Britain, on the colonies, or on both?* | *What does it focus on? Money, morals, or culture and civilisation?* |
| **Interpretation 1: An extract adapted from a letter written by Cecil Rhodes in 1891.**“I contend that we are the **first race** of the world and that **the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race**. I contend that every acre added to our territory means the birth of more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence… **The expansion of the British Empire brings the whole of the uncivilised world under British rule**.” |  |  |  | **Cecil Rhodes:**Cecil Rhodes worked in Africa when he was young. He then went to Oxford University where he was taught by professors who were in favour of the Empire. Afterwards, he returned to Africa where he made a fortune in diamond mining. At one point, he owned 9/10 of the world’s diamond resources.**Context of the time when he was writing:**During the 19th century Britain became more powerful around the world because of the growth of the British Empire in new areas. |
| **Interpretation 2: An extract adapted from a book by Christopher Hill, written in 1957.**“**The profits from the investments in the British Empire went to a fairly small number of British people** as shareholders in the companies whose business lay in the colonies. Yet it must be remembered that what made both the interest and the new range of goods possible was **the cheap native labour in the new colonies**… Plantations, mines, railways, and roads – all **depended upon the employment of large numbers of native workmen whose wages were extremely low and whose living conditions were primitive** by British standards”. |  |  |  | **Christopher Hill:**Christopher Hill was a Marxist. This meant that he believed that everyone should be treated equally, and there should be no rich and poor. Everyone should be the same. **Context of the time when he was writing:**In the 1950s, the British Empire was becoming less and less powerful. More countries were fighting for independence, which meant they were no longer wanted to be part of the Empire. This was a time of decolonisation. |
| **Interpretation 3: An extract adapted from an article by Richard Gott, written in The Guardian on May 5th 2001.**“The First World War over-extended the Empire; the Second World War, which turned out to be a war against racism, accelerated its downfall. **If it was right to oppose Hitler, it was necessary to dismantle an Empire built on the same racist principles**. The British ruling classes rather enjoyed lording it over people they regarded as their racial inferiors. The Empire involved military conquest and **dictatorship**, extermination and **genocide**, **slavery** and forced labour and of course the transoceanic migration of peoples.” |  |  |  | **Richard Gott:**Richard Gott is a journalist who writes for newspapers such as the Guardian. He is ‘left-wing’, which means he believes in equality – a bit like a Marxist, but less strong in beliefs.**Context of the time when he was/is writing:**In the 21st century, Britain is keen to show that the British Empire had both positive and negative sides to it. As a multi-ethnic, multicultural country, British people don’t think about race, but see everyone the same. The government is aware of the need to remove any remaining racism from society. |