**Interpretations of the British Empire**

**Section A**

**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**.”

**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”.

1. **What is the main difference between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2?**

The main difference between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 is that 1 is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the empire whilst 2 is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the empire.

Interpretation 1 says that ‘…’

This shows that Rhodes thought…

On the other hand, Interpretation 2 says that ‘…’

This shows that Hill thought…

1. **Explain one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 differ.**

One reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 differ is due to the personal experiences of the authors. For example, Rhodes felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the empire because…

On the other hand, Hill felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the empire because…

*Challenge: Another reason they might give different views is due to the context of the time when the Interpretations were written…*

**Section B**

**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”.

**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.”

1. **What is the main difference between Interpretation 2 and Interpretation 3?**

The main difference between Interpretation 2 and Interpretation 3 is that 2 focuses on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whilst 3 focuses on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Interpretation 2 says that ‘…’

This shows that Hill thought the empire was bad because…

On the other hand, Interpretation 3 says that ‘…’

This shows that Gott thought the empire was bad because…



Source 3: A slave being kicked and beaten by his owner, c. 1700.

Source 5: A British man is waited on by Indian servants.

1. **Explain one reason why Interpretations 2 and 3 differ.**

One reason why Interpretations 2 and 3 differ is because the authors used different evidence. For example, Hill might have used evidence such as Source \_\_\_, which shows…

This supports his view that… because…

On the other hand, Gott might have used evidence such as Source \_\_\_, which shows…

This supports his view that… because…

*Challenge: Another reason they might give different views is due to the context of the time when the Interpretations were written…*