

Paper 2: Question 2

Whole sample response

Both Source A and Source B describe different boards being used, however, Source A seems to describe surfboards as much more technical and carefully chosen whilst Source B shows a more localised, religious importance to the boards used.

In Source A, the writer describes that most people rode 'hollow paddle-boards' or 'solid redwood slabs' with the 'much lighter and better balsa wood boards starting to appear'. From this we can infer that whilst the boards are very old-fashioned by modern standards, there is a certain sense of sophistication about having different types of board. In addition, we can infer that the boards used by surfers in Source A are starting to become more advanced as the new board was 'just' starting to appear. The word 'just' allows us to infer that this was just the beginning of the commercialisation of the boards. Source A even shows the boards as being specialised to a particular function. A 'kook box' which is hollow mahogany, is used for life guards. This shows surfing as specialist in nature.

The boards in Source B are much simpler and are made from the 'native breadfruit tree'. They were then 'blessed in a simple ritual.' On one level, we can comment on the sophistication of these boards as very primitive as the boards don't appear to be hollow. Nevertheless I think the biggest difference expressed in Source B is that because they were 'blessed' it seems that the boards the surfers used were engrained into a culture and a way of life. Whilst Source A suggests the interest in boards as being unique for surfers who used them for different purposes, Source B suggests a whole society was interested in these boards as a part of their culture.