

History

Answers and commentaries A-level (7042)

1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851 — 1964

Marked answers from students for questions from the June 2022 exams. Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

Contents

The below content table is interactive. You can click on the title of the question to go directly to that page.

Question 1	3
Question 2	15

Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written and have not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

This resource is to be used alongside the A-level History Component 1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964 June 2022 Question paper and inserts.

Question 1

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the issue of female emancipation in the years 1903 to 1929.

[30 marks]

Mark scheme

- L5:** Shows a very good understanding of the interpretations put forward in all three extracts and combines this with a strong awareness of the historical context to analyse and evaluate the interpretations given in the extracts. Evaluation of the arguments will be well-supported and convincing. The response demonstrates a very good understanding of context. **25–30**
- L4:** Shows a good understanding of the interpretations given in all three extracts and combines this with knowledge of the historical context to analyse and evaluate the interpretations given in the extracts. The evaluation of the arguments will be mostly well-supported, and convincing, but may have minor limitations of depth and breadth. The response demonstrates a good understanding of context. **19–24**
- L3:** Provides some supported comment on the interpretations given in all three extracts and comments on the strength of these arguments in relation to their historical context. There is some analysis and evaluation but there may be an imbalance in the degree and depth of comments offered on the strength of the arguments. The response demonstrates an understanding of context. **13–18**
- L2:** Provides some accurate comment on the interpretations given in at least two of the extracts, with reference to the historical context. The answer may contain some analysis, but there is little, if any, evaluation. Some of the comments on the strength of the arguments may contain some generalisation, inaccuracy or irrelevance. The response demonstrates some understanding of context. **7–12**

A-LEVEL HISTORY – 7042/1G BRITAIN – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARIES

- L1:** **Either** shows an accurate understanding of the interpretation given in one extract only **or** addresses two/three extracts, but in a generalist way, showing limited accurate understanding of the arguments they contain, although there may be some general awareness of the historical context. Any comments on the strength of the arguments are likely to be generalist and contain some inaccuracy and/or irrelevance. The response demonstrates limited understanding of context. **1-6**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Student responses

Response A

Extract A argues women gained further emancipation through as a reward for their war effort, rather than the campaigning of groups like the WSPU. The extract describes women being 'frustrated by years of ineffective, non-violent agitation' This is supported by the lack of progress of Millicent Fawcette's National Women's Suffrage Union. The NSWU took a peaceful approach, wanting equal rights to men through parliament & a moderate approach. Although women could vote in local elections by 1888 the progress of this group was slow, leading to Pankhursts forming of the WSPU in 1903, taking a militant approach to gaining suffrage, supporting the ~~idea~~ extract's idea previous campaigning was seen as slow & ineffective.

Extract A also argues the WSPU resorted to too much violence, especially to liberal politicians causing support to 'decline sharply,' support from this argument comes from the public response to suffragette action. Many liberal politicians including female sympathisers among the party were targeted for example the burning down of suffrage supporter Lloyd George's home. This led to a decline in both liberal support (with Asquith already reluctant to accept female suffrage) as well as a decline in public support with many finding violence especially during the suffragette 'wild period' too much, causing them to stop supporting the movement. The extract however can be challenged around this view with suffragette action bringing alot of

public sympathy to the cause, government force feedings of imprisoned suffragettes caused public outrage & brought huge sympathy to the movement, leading to the passing of the 1913 cat & mouse act. This shows the source may not accurately represent the public response to suffragette action.

Extract A also argues world war one and female contribution to the war effort was the reason females were enfranchised. This is supported by the ~~1918~~ ~~women's~~ vote being awarded to women in 1918 if they were over 30 and house holders, this act was introduced as a reward to women for their efforts, with 1/3 ~~women~~ of the war workforce being women. Supporting the extracts claim emancipation politically was a reward for war effort. This argument can however be challenged as the liberal government had already accepted the need for female suffrage by 1912 ^{*} passing several franchise bills into parliament with non making it to a second reading and a 1912 bill being thrown out on a technicality. ~~Support for~~ This contrasts the extracts idea that suffrage was only accepted due to the war.

* with the liberals trying to find a way to extend the franchise without damaging electoral prospects by only giving the vote to middle class women.

The extracts claim that the vote was a reward for the war effort can also be criticised as most of the women involved in war work were young working class women, therefore not being represented by the 1918 act showing.

the act could not be a reward for war work & contrasting extract A's claims.

In conclusion, extract A is valuable in explaining the damaging effects of suffragette action however it may ignore the wide support suffragettes brought to the issue of female emancipation as well as possibly over-emphasising the impact of war on the movement to emancipation.

Extract B argues war was only a temporary victory for women, with the role of women quickly reverting to that of before the war, moving away from the employment & new social roles of the war. ~~Support~~

The extract argues women were admitted to the factories in their war, this is supported by the 500,000 women working in munitions to supply the war as well as women taking on traditional 'masculine' roles like engineering & shipbuilding. Women also took on war roles eg volunteering for the red cross and auxiliary army. This supports the ^{extract's} idea of war bringing ~~a~~ new employment opportunities for women, with '1/3 of the war workforce being female ~~women~~

The extract however argues this emancipation was short lived, with women's previous social roles surviving the war. This is evidenced by pressure within the media for women to return to tradition as well as pressure from trade unions for women to leave their role in the workforce. Although women

now had the chance to run for MP, not many women had the confidence to do so, this was due to women being seen as too emotional for politics and their involvement in politics being viewed as a damage to their home life and ability to raise children. This comes from the traditional argument of men and women having separate spheres. This supports the extract's claims that movement toward female emancipation was temporary, with women being pressured to revert to pre-war roles.

However, the extract's claims that women resorted to traditional roles can be challenged. During the war 500,000 women worked in local government. This continued after the war with many ~~and~~ middle class women continuing office jobs as clerical workers, this shows employment opportunities for women had improved, even after the war. Women also saw long lasting change toward emancipation through legislation passed with 1923 granting women equal terms as men with abandonment & insanity later being added as reasons to claim. Women gained further legislative equality through the 1925 act, giving women equal rights to claim for custody of children in divorce as well as the 1919 sex discrimination act giving women further progress to equality. This criticises the extract's claims that the war only saw temporary change for women.

In conclusion, Extract B is valuable for

understanding how the role of women changed during the war and the post-war pressure to revert to expected social roles, the extract may however understate the long term strides towards emancipation through legislation helping female equality.

extract C argues ~~post-war~~ women saw a change in fashion and social freedoms in the post-war years, unlike that of before 1914.

The extract describes how women were able to delve into new 'boyish' fashions. The popularity of new fabrics like nylon in the 1920s meant women could buy new clothes cheaper, allowing them to try new fashions and move away from the traditional expectations of female clothing. Hairstyles like the 'bob' rose in popularity for the first time and represented the new found freedoms and the group movement away from traditional female norms, supporting the extract's claims new fashions allowed women to demonstrate their freedom.

The extract also argues there was a 'loosening of social restraints' upon women. Women now smoked in public, wore more cosmetics and make up, as well as being ~~accepted~~ allowed to leave the house without a enaperones, expressing the unense freedom women experienced and self-expression after the war. The extract also discusses the lowering

of 'sexual taboos' and promotion of birth control. This is supported by the growth in youth culture of the 1920s with young people talking more freely about sex and an emerging subculture of freedom and gratification. Many middle class women also began to accept the use of birth control, having increasingly smaller families due to its popularity. This further supports the extracts claims that the post war years showed social & sexual liberation for women, making huge strides towards complete emancipation.

In conclusion extract C is useful in understanding the changes in fashion, social and sexual life for women, showing how young women were able to express their new found freedom & the benefits of emancipation by the late 1920s.

This is a Level 4 response

The response identifies the main argument of each extract effectively. However, for Extracts A and B, the assessment which follows immediately after is not precisely focused on these main arguments, being rather too much of a line-by-line, fact-checking approach. However, the assessment of A and B then improves to provide balanced evaluation supported by some well-selected evidence. The assessment of Extract C similarly shows a good understanding with some contextual support, however it lacks balance. The conclusions on all three extracts are limited, amounting to little more than a brief summary, and not focusing precisely on the question 'how convincing?'.

Response B

The main line of argument in extract ~~A~~^A is that the 'violent' and dangerous acts of groups like the Suffragettes was the main reason for the resistance of political parties to extend the franchise. I do not find this argument to be overly convincing, instead it may have been the fear of giving women too much power in parliament that delayed the franchise. This can be recognised in the fact that the Liberal government had completely ignored the violence in ~~the~~ 1910, only at the Derby in 1913 was the sacrifice of Emily Davison seen as ~~extreme and dangerous~~^{extreme and dangerous}. The government before the war was only allowing for small amounts of change, council election votes and qualification acts 1907. The men in parliament believed politics were not for the women. ~~Another~~^{Another} argument in extract ~~A~~^A is that the war was a factor that stopped the development of the female emancipation movement, however states it helped the movement of equal franchise on the most. This is very convincing because it was during the war that women were able to show social and political strength, they were working predominantly male jobs and supporting their children at the same time, during the war women made up

1/3 of the workforce, showing just how large their contributions were. This meant the government could hardly ignore their need for a shift in social status. Therefore led to the 1928 equal franchise Act, which did allow 'all women over the age of 21' to vote.

The main argument in extract B is that before 1914 there was a very rigid opinion of what ~~was~~ a woman was 'for', and that there was a belief women were not so keen to develop their social position with the war effort. This argument is partly convincing, there was certainly a stereotype for a woman's role ~~at~~ before the war, many still had the same opinion after too, however women were not all 'reluctant' to join the war effort. Of course there were many who believed their role of staying at home caring for the children was more important, but many didn't. In 1914 the number of women working was almost 6 million, and in 1918 there was around 7.3 million women at work, this was a great increase. It showed that many women may have seen the war as an opportunity to advance their role in society. Another argument in extract B is that the war only gave women a brief moment of independence, and after 1918 everything returned

to its original place. This argument is only slightly convincing because, although it is true that when the men came home from war it was expected of the women to revert back to their old ~~gender~~ roles, many would not. Numerous women's associations even aided the women to go home, showing not all women looked to future developments, however these were rather old-fashioned opinions of the older generation. But, a new freedom was going to arise, the women got the vote, were able to have the right to divorce and later on were able to take contraception. This shows that although their period of freedom was restricted after the war, many new steps were allowing for fairer treatment of the women.

The main argument in extract C is that there was a very large social shift in attitudes towards women in the 1920s. This argument is very convincing when comparing to attitudes present before the war.

It was a previous opinion that women needed a chaperone when going out, they would wear over the knee dresses and no trousers, however after 1918 they experienced new trends and fashion. The war had allowed ~~the~~ ^{women} ~~to~~ style trousers, important when in factories, and more vibrant make-up and hair. Women were ~~more~~ free to express themselves, a little more, in

what they wore. It was becoming socially accepted by many to adopt this new era of fashion and change.

Another argument in extract C is that the new generation were confidently adapting to this shift of attitude and they enjoyed many new activities. This argument is very convincing, because, in the 1920s both women and men enjoyed nightclubs and drinking new cocktails. This is also important to women as they were free to go without a chaperone. It was also now widely accepted to talk more freely about sexuality or sexual topics, people were less private and secretive. Overall showing that the new era of pushing for female rights had been accompanied by a very large shift in social attitude, increasing pleasure of life even more for both men and women after the first world war:

This is a Level 3 response

The response does not identify the main arguments of Extracts A and B effectively. As a result, the initial deployment of contextual knowledge is not wholly convincing in relation to the question or the arguments of the extracts. The assessment of both A and B does improve to an extent through some engagement with the main arguments, and a hint of balance in relation to B, but contextual support is thin and not wholly convincing. The main argument of Extract C is effectively identified, however, the supporting evidence lacks depth.

Question 2

'In the years 1851 to 1873, all social groups within Britain benefited from the impact of economic growth.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

Mark scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21–25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16–20**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the question and will supply a range of largely accurate information, which will show an awareness of some of the key issues and features, but may, however, be unspecific or lack precision of detail. The answer will be effectively organised and show adequate communication skills. There will be a good deal of comment in relation to the question and the answer will display some balance, but a number of statements may be inadequately supported and generalist. **11–15**
- L2:** The answer is descriptive or partial, showing some awareness of the question but a failure to grasp its full demands. There will be some attempt to convey material in an organised way, although communication skills may be limited. There will be some appropriate information showing understanding of some key features and/or issues, but the answer may be very limited in scope and/or contain inaccuracy and irrelevance. There will be some, but limited, comment in relation to the question and statements will, for the most part, be unsupported and generalist. **6–10**
- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1–5**

Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Student responses

Response A

1851-73 saw unprecedented economic boom in ~~EURO~~ Britain, with British industry experiencing ~~economic~~ exponential growth and agriculture experience a golden age of 'high farming' and high yields. This ~~lead to an~~ ^{was} overall beneficial to the people of Britain however excluded some social groups ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ ~~poverty~~ ^{poverty}, subject to regional divisions and unhelpful to those in ~~poverty or unemployed, showing it was not beneficial to all~~ ^{social} Economic growth aided the landed classes ^{group} and aristocracy who made the majority of their income from land rent. The boom of industrialisation and production of new factories meant more land could be sold for higher rents to construct these factories, with the golden age of agriculture also meaning higher rates could be charged for land rents

due to increased yields and higher agricultural wages. This shows life did improve for the already affluent upper classes due to economic growth and higher land rents subsequently.

The growth in prosperity of the middle class during 1851-73 economic boom was unprecedented. The growth in world trade and shipping (with Britain creating '1/3 of world exports') meant merchants and factory owners formed part of a new emerging working class. Factory owners built luxury homes on the outskirts of cities, ~~both~~

Buying luxury furnishings with the 1871 census showing 1.4 households having domestic servants, a sign of the emerging middle class with 1/5 of Britain being classed as middle class ranging from lawyers on 1000 yearly earnings to prosperous merchants and factory owners, with even politicians like Gladstone ~~being~~ having middle class roots. This shows economic growth especially in industry benefited the emerging middle class with new wealth from factories and world trade.

The working class also benefited from this economic boom. Real wages increased 30% in this period, giving increased working class spending power. Railway allowed fresh food, meat & dairy to be imported to the countryside allowing improved diets for the working class. Commodities like soap were also now available due to increased spending as well as increased spending on leisure. The 1871 bank holiday act allowed working class families to take seaside trips to Blackpool & similar towns by Railway due to increased real wages, showing economic boom improved the lives of the working classes with both industrial & agricultural workers having increased spending power.

However, the economic boom did not benefit those ~~already~~ not in employment. Working class wages did fluctuate with the economy however remained at a good standard. Those

not in employment however did not benefit from economic boom. There was little security for the working class against sickness and old age meaning the threat of falling back into poverty was always a threat. Skilled workers were able to save money in friendly societies or Gladstones 1861 post box savings. Unskilled workers however had no protection in the face of unemployment, being forced to resort to the workhouse and its stigma or try to rely on the inadequate poor law. This shows economic prosperity did not benefit all social groups as there were limited provisions for the unemployed and little protection from unemployment for unskilled workers.

Economic prosperity also failed to improve conditions for 'paupers', those who remained in consistent poverty. These paupers were looked down upon by society as idle and reckless, deserving their deplorable conditions. This group remained in poverty despite economic growth, showing not all groups benefited from prosperity. The reports of Booth & Rowntree further shed light on the effects of poverty finding 30% were in poverty despite the effects of the economy, showing ~~that~~ further that those in poverty did not benefit from economic growth.

There were also large regional divisions in life of the working class despite the whole of Britain's economy improving. Areas of the North with natural coal & iron deposits experienced the majority of industrial growth. This meant that life of the working class & wages saw much more improvement in these industrial hubs than the agricultural south despite the agricultural economy improving. This shows prosperity did not improve life for all social groups as a rigid north/south divide remained as industrial wages overtook those of agricultural labourers.

Regional divisions in those benefiting from the economy is also shown through divisions in Scotland & Ireland. Belfast's proximity to the sea on major ~~ports~~ ports and dominance in shipbuilding allowed strong trading links with the empire and allowing conditions to prosper. This prosperity cannot be said for rural Ireland with absentee protestant landlords charging high rents and evicting farmers for making improvements, this led to low yields and low incomes for Irish agricultural workers showing prosperity did not benefit all Irish groups, only the north.

The south of Scotland also saw increased prosperity whilst the highlands remained isolated & deprived, reliant on agriculture and with little contact to the rest of Scotland & Ireland. This supports the idea not all social groups benefited from prosperity.

In conclusion, Britain's people did overall benefit from economic prosperity as each class saw improvements. These benefits however were not extended to all social groups with rigid divisions between regions as well as no help to those already in poverty or ~~the~~ protection from unemployment - showing not all social groups benefited.

This is a Level 5 response

The response demonstrates a very good understanding of the full demands of the question, covering a range of relevant points across all classes and regions of the UK to achieve a balanced assessment. Supporting contextual knowledge is well-selected and specific in every paragraph, and the response shows a strong grasp of key features and concepts. Overall, this essay achieves substantiated judgement by building a coherent and balanced argument from the introduction through to the conclusion, supported along the way by excellent factual evidence and conceptual understanding.

Response B

In the years 1851 to 1873 there was unparalleled economic growth in Britain and it definitely had benefited all social groups within Britain, whether all within the social group benefited is debatable, however the majority of each did.

One group that benefited ~~targeted~~ during the economic growth was the working class who were farmers and agricultural workers. There had been a golden age of agriculture from the years 1851 to 1873 and this introduced a period of prosperity for ~~farmers and~~ all agricultural workers. There was large technical advances during this time which would help with the physical labour of the working people, such as ploughs, it made the harvest easier. Another beneficial factor during this time was that there was lots of cheap labour, meaning a much larger workforce than previously. The introduction of clay pipes and fertiliser was also a very important factor during this period to result in prosperity

in agriculture, clay pipes allowed for a better drainage system and would therefore help produce a higher yield of crop, which could be sold cheaper, benefiting working class families.

The use of fertiliser like guano, imported from Peru, also aided in the

growth of large amounts of crop. During this time the wages of people had increased and prices of goods had decreased, as ~~described~~ described, therefore families were able to afford an abundance of good fresh food.

Another area which had allowed for prosperity among the working class was the introduction of new economic ideology and policy. The government under the Liberals had adopted the idea policy of free trade in the early 19th century, this worked very well in the years before 1873, due to the fact Britain was yet to face strong foreign competition. There was an increase in imports and consumerism, allowing for an increase in living standards. Another economic policy was *laissez faire*, which was the idea that the government should not implement and influence of the economy, instead they should just 'let it be'. Many better economists during this time believed that government intervention may have hindered possible economic growth, which may have been true. Many businessmen, industrialists and farmers benefitted from these policies, it allowed for a 'boom' in their area of work.

The development in Industry was also a key factor for the spread of prosperity among social groups, mainly industrialists in the north, and agriculture remained more south. There was large industrial growth in the staple industries such as coal, textiles, steel and iron and ship building. Britain had dominated the shipping lanes during the mid 19th century and ^{this} was very important to help aid the trade of the country. The Suez canal was opened in 1869 and was a very huge success as Britain had steam boats that were able to fit. Coal ^{output} had also increased massively, this would have benefited coal miners across the country, increasing their income. In ^{the} 1850s coal output was around 60 million tonnes and by 1870 it was over double that, at 130 million tonnes. This ^{shows} ~~was~~ large development and prosperity, ~~leading on from~~ The development of railways was also a key factor when seeing how the economic growth benefited many. Development in coal and steel meant an increase in railway advancements, transportation of fresh goods quickly rose and allowed for an increase in tourism. Seaside ~~to~~ towns were able to gain access to new products and travel easily, leading on from the development in staple industry.

there was also the development of new industries. Scientific innovation allowed for an increase of industrialists, many people were able to advance in enterprise. Industries like rubber, artificial silk, aluminium and soap had begun and people like William Lever, a man who had a very large soap company, showed that it was allowing people to increase chances of a happy successful life. However not everyone was able to reap the rewards of this industrial development, factory workers and people in sweatshops felt no positive effects, the majority however, did.

Overall, I find the statement that all social classes benefited from economic growth in the years 1851-1873 to be very valid. The innovations, technical and scientific helped increased consumerism and wage for many people. Although some may have been too low down on the social ladder to experience any change, ~~there~~ they were the minority.

This is a Level 3 response

The introduction is not convincing, however the following section on improvements to agriculture, and therefore to the lives of farmers and the working classes, is effective at answering the question, showing an awareness of some of the key features and issues. However, the second half of the essay is dominated by content on economic policy and developments, which is not effectively focused on the question. This content is unspecific and lacks precision. There is a hint of balance just before the conclusion but this is inadequately supported and not developed.

Get help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at aqa.org.uk/7042

You can talk directly to the History subject team

E: history@aqa.org.uk

T: 0161 958 3865

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

AQA Education (AQA) is a registered charity (registered charity number 1073334) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 3644723).

Registered address: AQA, Devas Street, Manchester M15 6EX.

