

A-level HISTORY

Component 1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964

Friday 9 June 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1G.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Extract A

The outbreak of the First World War initiated a process of disintegration in the Liberal party which by 1918 had reduced it to ruins. As Liberals were the first to recognise, the onset of war jeopardised the existence of a party whose guiding principles were international conciliation, personal liberty, and social reform. For a Liberal government to lead Britain into war, and to direct a wartime administration, seemed almost a contradiction in terms. In short, war and the conduct of war threatened to eliminate liberalism as a coherent political position. As the war proceeded, an increasing number of Liberals began condemning their leaders, and indeed their party as a whole, for 'betraying' liberal ideals. And they often enquired despairingly whether Liberalism would ever rise again after such misfortunes. A party whose shortcomings were so loudly proclaimed by its own adherents had little chance of keeping its following intact or securing the allegiance of new entrants to politics.

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Adapted from T Wilson, *The Downfall of the Liberal Party 1914–35*, 1966

Extract B

The Liberals may have eventually weakened themselves due to their own successes since 1906 – a common fate of reforming parties. For the more they removed 'abuses', the less clear did it become what their aim in life now was. After the war, the Liberal Party was no longer a party of radical change. Liberals no longer wanted to make fundamental institutional changes (except to the voting system) and their posture became a defensive rather than an aggressive one. In the early 1920s some Liberals themselves seriously wondered whether Liberalism had not outlived its usefulness. Most liberal beliefs and values had come to be so widely accepted that there seemed no need for a separate party to campaign on their behalf. By the 1920s it could almost be claimed that 'We are all Liberals now'. After all, both Labour and Conservatives drew heavily in their policy-making and in their thinking upon the Liberal tradition.

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Adapted from G R Searle, *The Liberal Party: Triumph and Disintegration, 1886–1929*, 1992

Extract C

The 1923 election epitomised the failure of the Liberals to seize their opportunities as a result of internal division and the absence of firm constructive leadership. Asquith did nothing to check the factionalism of those who regarded Lloyd George as a traitor to the party. After 1923, Lloyd George held onto his money as his one major bargaining weapon. Rather than pour it out to help an organisation under Asquithian control, he chose to wait for his older rival's inevitable retirement. Having lost his seat at Paisley in 1924, Asquith carried on as leader from within the House of Lords for no other purpose than to prevent the party succumbing to Lloyd George. He thus largely prevented the revival of Liberalism until 1926, by which time too many radicals had been lost to Labour to permit even Lloyd George to restore the party's old strength. The years from 1918 to 1924 were possibly more important in this respect than 1914–18, which is usually taken as the decisive period.

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Adapted from M Pugh, *The Making of Modern British Politics 1867–1939*, 1993

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the decline of the Liberal Party in the years 1906 to 1929.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'The growth in support for Irish Home Rule in the years 1867 to 1890 was the personal achievement of Charles Parnell.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 How effective were the social reforms of the years 1874 to 1905 in improving the condition of the working classes?

[25 marks]

0 4 'The years 1945 to 1964 were a period of consensus over financial and economic policy.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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