

A-level HISTORY

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

Tuesday 19 May 2020 Afternoon 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 AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

One should doubt the truth of the accounts given in many traditional textbooks, in which a tale of woe has been told of British agriculture after 1872. These accounts claim that, on average, farm incomes fell by 40% and, rather than let farms fall vacant, landowners lowered their rents on average by a third. In reality, it can be said that new standards of commercial efficiency were achieved by British farmers. The value of dairy produce, beef, mutton, pig meat and even eggs increased as wheat prices were falling. 5

The railways allowed a mass-market for fresh produce to be exploited in rapidly expanding urban populations. A rise in the value of total agricultural output of 10% in this period represented an impressive rise in productivity in a country supposedly afflicted by depression. Real wages of the agricultural labour force were maintained, while cheaper food stimulated consumer demand in the economy generally. 10

Adapted from P Mathias, *The First Industrial Nation*, 1983

Extract B

From 1873 onwards, the industrial economic climate changed in such a way that contemporaries used the term 'the Great Depression' and in 1886 a royal commission was appointed to investigate. In its report, the commission described the Depression as exhibiting 'a reduction of, and in some cases, an absence of profit, with a corresponding decline of employment for the labouring classes'. Indeed, prices, profits and interest rates all fell, and unemployment was marked in a number of trades. Unemployment was a reality, contrary to what some have suggested; it can be no coincidence that the word 'unemployment' itself seems to have come into common use in the 1880s. If the Great Depression was something of a myth, that was not how it was seen at the time. 5

In London, in 1886, there was a march of the unemployed during which windows were broken in the wealthy area of Pall Mall and the police had to intervene. 10

Adapted from E Hopkins, *Industrialisation and Society*, 2000

Extract C

In the years 1873 to 1896, the quality of British education was markedly on the increase. Most motor car pioneers, for example, had been to good schools and possibly Technical or University Colleges. This applied to industries in which Britain was still leading, such as ship-building, steam-engine making and textile machine building, as much as industries in which she was supposedly behind her major competitors. The most interesting examples of innovation are to be found in the electrical engineering sector, often listed as one of Britain's failures. The first public electricity generating station at Holborn Viaduct actually pre-dated the first American station. Other early achievements were found in the Liverpool overhead railway and the first electric tube train in London in 1890. The contribution of the Gilchrist-Thomas technique to the development of mass-produced steel was ground-breaking. Britain was in the lead, or at least up among the leaders, in a whole range of science-based industries.

5

10

Adapted from S Pollard, *Britain's Prime and Britain's Decline*, 1989

0	1
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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 British economy in the years 1873 to 1896.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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To what extent did social reform legislation, in the years 1906 to 1929, improve the lives of the working classes?

[25 marks]

0	3
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'In the years 1918 to 1940, the successes of the Labour Party outweighed its failures.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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'Catholic/Protestant tensions in Ulster, in the early 1960s, were caused by the actions of the Unionist governments of Northern Ireland from the 1930s onwards.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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