

A-level HISTORY

Component 2M Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Wednesday 3 June 2020 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 7042/2M.
- 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 two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From 'A West Indian in England', a pamphlet published by the Central Office of Information, the UK government marketing and communications agency, 1950.

It is important to realise that while there is a certain amount of colour prejudice in England, there is no legal colour bar. Where colour prejudice does exist, it is not as deep-rooted as it is in America. In England, a West Indian is entitled to demand that he be served in any public place, just like anyone else. An illustration of this is the famous cricketer, Learie Constantine, who was denied accommodation at a hotel in London. He successfully sued the hotel for breach of contract and recovered damages. The sympathetic publicity the case received in the English press, reflects the public's opinion. The case was supported by every political party in England. The Government has no direct power over private persons who refuse to accommodate West Indians. Where it can act it does, as in a recent case where the Minister of Food threatened to withdraw the catering licence of a small restaurant which refused to serve an immigrant who went there with some English friends.

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Source B

From a letter written to the TUC by a West African student living in Britain, 1954.

Many problems have arisen recently about the employment of coloured workers in Britain due to the influx of West Indians. A few weeks ago, some London busmen refused to work with immigrants as conductors. Just a week ago there was a man in Nottingham who had to face this same problem, as his workmates refused to show him what to do. Moreover, they refused to work with immigrants believing this might create conflict with the public.

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Colour problems in Britain have become a very common topic for discussion among us West Africans. Workers in this country do not realise that those of us who have come to this country for the purpose of further studies are going to be the architects of our countries' futures. In West Africa, we have white men and black men being supervised by both black and white, as long as they are both efficient. I do not see why Britain, a country well known for its democratic principles, should discriminate.

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Source C

From an internal report to the Cabinet on immigration, 1956. The Cabinet was considering whether legislation should be passed to limit colonial immigration.

In the three months since the Cabinet last examined the matter, nearly 9000 West Indians have arrived. During this period the number of unemployed immigrant workers has not risen substantially and most of them have been able to find employment. The total number of all unemployed immigrants at present is less than 7000, although this total is significantly above the national average. This is thought to be partly due to the fact that the immigrants take time to settle into employment and move initially from job to job. It is also partly due to the fact that they have tended to settle in Midland towns affected by recession in the motor-car industry. Being relative newcomers, they have been among the first to become redundant under the 'last in, first out' principle. Only about half the unemployed immigrant workers have needed to ask for public funds, whether unemployment benefit or national assistance.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the experience of immigrants to Britain in the 1950s.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent did the British economy remain strong in the years 1906 to 1914?
[25 marks]

0 3 'Lloyd George's policies towards Ireland were effective in the years 1916 to 1921.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'There was no serious threat to the political stability of Britain in the years 1936 to 1939.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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