

## A-level HISTORY

### Component 1J The British Empire, c1857–1967

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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 7042/1J.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

Was the Empire really economically beneficial to the mass of British voters? In the last years of the nineteenth century and in the years before World War One, it is not immediately obvious that it was. The benefits of overseas investment were not enjoyed by the majority of people, whose savings, if they had any, were generally invested in British government bonds through savings banks. Most British overseas investment was in countries outside the Empire and most of the country's exports went to non-Empire countries. Furthermore, it can be argued that imperialism was a swindle, benefitting only a tiny elite of British society, like Rhodes and Rothschild. The costs of imperial defence, though not excessively high, were borne primarily by British taxpayers, not by taxpayers in the colonies of white settlement. Indeed it is arguable that the principal beneficiaries of the Empire at this time were those British subjects who emigrated to the Dominions, of whom there were a great many.

Adapted from N Ferguson, *Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World*, 2004

**Extract B**

Many of the territories controlled by Britain in the later nineteenth century certainly could and did provide Britain with valuable trade. Many colonies created tremendous wealth for Britain and provided export opportunities and an ability to access key raw materials. Prohibitive tariffs imposed by other European nations in the last few decades of the 1800s undermined the principle of free trade, and investment and interest shifted towards the colonies, which provided less restrictive export and import markets. In theory, the colonies operated in a free trade environment, but in practice most were dominated by Britain as supplier and as buyer. The Empire was never cheap to run, for it necessitated a large body of troops and a smaller but still sizeable body of administrators in the colonies and in Britain. But the burden, nonetheless, lay disproportionately with those colonised rather than with the colonisers. By 1914, in most colonies, the encouragement to produce goods for the British market helped the British economically more than it did the producers.

Adapted from P Levine, *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset*, 2013

**Extract C**

Since 1890 the British people had needed the Empire not only for trade and investment, but also for products to purchase and, for many, their livelihoods depended on it. In the years running up to the First World War, people grew accustomed to using and depending on the colonies for certain things: Malaya for rubber, India for tea, Egypt for cotton, West Africa for cocoa; the bonds grew stronger and tighter. The Empire, however, did more for the people than merely provide profit and goods; for some of them it gave them jobs, and this was a strong reason for not wanting to abandon it. For some people the Empire provided new opportunities, and many migrated there. This was not the limit of the Empire's economic benefits though, as it employed many directly as colonial administrators, clerks, soldiers, and many others were engaged indirectly in supporting them from Britain. The Empire was therefore economically beneficial to the British people and many would have welcomed even closer economic and social ties.

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Adapted from B Porter, *The Lion's Share: A Short History of British Imperialism 1850–2004*, 2004

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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 economic importance of the Empire to Britain in the years 1890 to 1914.

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

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 0 2** In the years 1858 to 1890, to what extent did British rule change India both economically and socially? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** 'In the years 1914 to 1948, Britain's imperial power was weakened by its participation in the two world wars.'  
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** To what extent did the Empire and its legacy influence the British people and popular culture in the years 1947 to 1967? **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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