

A-level HISTORY

Component 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

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 7042/2S.
- 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**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From an editorial in the Observer, 4 November 1956. The Observer, a broadsheet Sunday newspaper, took a liberal or left-of-centre perspective on most issues at this time.

We wish to make an apology. Five weeks ago we reported that our government would never carry out a military attack that was against international law. The events last week have proved us completely wrong. If we misled anyone at home or abroad, we apologise unreservedly. We had not realised that our government was capable of such folly and crookedness. Whatever the government does now, it cannot undo its air attacks on Egypt; it cannot live down the dishonest nature of its ultimatum to Egypt, so worded that it was certain to be rejected. The Conservative Party faces electoral destruction. It is essential that the world should know that the Eden Administration no longer has the nation's confidence; throughout the summer, it has shown that it does not understand the world we live in. Every individual in this country who is against the government's attack on Egypt must protest in every legitimate way. Nations are said to have the governments they deserve. Let us show that we deserve better. 5 10

Source B

From a private and confidential letter sent to senior Cabinet ministers by Anthony Eden, 28 December 1956.

If we are to play an independent part in the world, we must ensure our financial and economic independence. We must re-evaluate our defence commitments and our spending priorities, and we have to do some re-thinking about our areas of influence. Safeguarding our oil supplies from the Persian Gulf remains a key priority but what about our commitments east of Suez? The conclusion of all of this is surely that we must review our world position and our domestic capacity more searchingly in the light of the Suez experience, which has not so much changed our fortunes as revealed realities. A consequence of this examination may be for us to work more closely with Europe, without losing our ties to the Commonwealth. However, we must be under no illusion. Europe will not welcome us simply because at the moment it may appear to suit us to look to them. The timing and the conviction of our approach may be decisive in influencing those with whom we plan to work. 5 10

Source C

From a book review in the New York Review, a highly respected periodical, by Labour MP Richard Crossman, May 1964. Crossman was reviewing recently published histories of the Suez crisis.

As an Opposition backbencher, I was only a minor participant; yet the Suez crisis, with its savage debates in the Commons and its monster demonstrations in Trafalgar Square, was the most intense experience of my whole political life. Today, we politicians can look back at this traumatic experience and re-examine it with some detachment. It was certainly a 'moment of truth', bringing home to every British politician, whether he was supporting Sir Anthony Eden or opposing him, that the United States was the boss in the Western Alliance and that we were living in a country that could no longer 'go it alone'. If the crisis taught us our military and economic weakness, it also shook us out of our mood of backward-looking nostalgia for a past imperial greatness and made us reconsider the whole basis of our existence as an independent nation. It was a crisis created by incompetence, yet it quickly became a non-issue in party political terms and had no electoral impact on the Conservative Party.

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0 1

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the impact of the Suez crisis.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent was the Labour Party's defeat in the 1970 General Election due to its failure to control the unions?
[25 marks]

0 3 'Privatisation and Right to Buy, in the years 1979 to 1987, were highly successful social and economic policies.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'In the years 1997 to 2007, no Conservative leader was able to heal the party's divisions.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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