

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 9 June 2023

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 7042/2M.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From the minutes of a Cabinet meeting, 23 August 1931.

The Prime Minister informed the Cabinet that he was strongly in favour of accepting the May Committee's recommendations. The Bank of England needed to restore confidence in sterling. He warned the Cabinet of the dreadful consequences that would inevitably follow from a financial panic and a run on the pound. He was confident that a majority of the Party was in favour. If the government inflicted spending cuts and tax rises but made no significant reduction in unemployment benefit, it would alienate much middle-class support and lose the Party its moral prestige, which was one of its greatest assets. In conclusion, the Prime Minister admitted that the recommendations as a whole represented the opposite of everything that the Labour Party stood for, and yet he was absolutely satisfied that it was in the national interest to implement them if the country was to be saved. He then pointed out that, if on this question there were any important resignations, the government as a whole must resign.

5

10

Source B

From a diary entry of JCC Davidson, 23/24 August 1931. Davidson, a Conservative MP and close friend and political ally of Baldwin, held several ministerial positions between 1920 and 1937.

Source B not reproduced here due to third party copyright restrictions.

Source C

From the autobiography of Clement Attlee, 1954. Attlee was a member of MacDonald's Cabinet in 1930/31. Attlee turned down MacDonald's offer of a position in the National Government.

In the old days I had looked up to MacDonald as a great leader. The unpopular line he took during the Great War seemed to mark him as a man of character. I had not appreciated his defects until I entered the Cabinet as a junior minister. I then realised his reluctance to take positive action and noted with dismay his increasing vanity and snobbery. His habit of telling me the poor opinion he had of all his Cabinet colleagues made an unpleasant impression. I had not, however, expected that he would perpetuate the greatest betrayal in the political history of this country by accepting a commission from the King to form a so-called 'National' Government. The shock to the Party was very great. I had not thought him capable of such hatred of those who had served him loyally, though we had become conscious of a growing separation between him and the rest of the Party. He was increasingly mixing only with people who did not share Labour values.

5

10

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 Ramsay MacDonald's political decisions in 1931.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'The Liberal government's social and welfare reforms, in the years 1906 to 1914, failed to deal with the problems of poverty.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

To what extent was the rise of Labour, in the years 1916 to 1922, due to divisions in the Liberal Party?

[25 marks]

0 4

'The Labour government was deeply divided throughout the years 1945 to 1951.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2023 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

