



A-level

HISTORY

Component 2M

**Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition,
1906–1957**

7042/2M

Friday 9 June 2023

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

MATERIALS

For this paper you must have:

- **an AQA 16-page answer book.**

[Turn over]

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.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Answer 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

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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

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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.

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SOURCE B

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[Turn over]

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

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made an unpleasant impression. I
had not, however, expected that he 15
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. 20
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 25
separation between him and the rest
of the Party. He was increasingly
mixing only with people who did not
share Labour values.

[Turn over]

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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 Ramsay MacDonald's political decisions in 1931. [30 marks]

[Turn over]

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]

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

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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