

A-level HISTORY

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

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 7042/2S.
- 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 AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From a speech in the House of Commons during a debate on the Wootton Report, by Conservative MP Patrick McNair-Wilson, 27 January 1969. This report recommended the legalisation of cannabis.

I have listened to the arguments of those experts outside this House who have tried to persuade me and others that the smoking of cannabis is no more than a social pastime. But I think that we are accepting too many kinds of social changes, not so much because we want them but merely because we believe that they are inevitable. I do not subscribe to the inevitability of what must happen to our social order in this country. For the report to suggest that the use of cannabis amounts to nothing more than youthful experimentation is the most dangerous premise on which to build any sort of legislation on drug-taking. We have to keep a firm grip on our society if we do not want it to get out of control. As a nation we can either just go with the flow or we can draw the line. I want to draw the line.

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Source B

From comments on the 1960s made in an interview by John Lennon, 1971. These were published in the influential and widely read music and popular culture magazine, 'Rolling Stone'.

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Source C

From 'Looking Back at the 1960s' by Sara Maitland, 1988. Maitland is a feminist writer who had graduated from Oxford University in 1971.

The 1960s were born out of the 'you've never had it so good' years. The security provided by the relatively high employment and rising wages of all classes created a new dynamic in society: a youth group which was both more monied and leisured than any previous generation. This, of course, does not deny that there were devastating injustices, prejudices and real poverty, but it was, nevertheless, an historic moment. The 1960s were transforming times, the beginning of the liberation of all women in Britain. We were undeniably greedy both for personal experience and instant gratification. We were undeniably arrogant in our conviction that we could change the world, but the optimism, excitement and aspiration of the time was real and produced the first British National Women's Liberation Conference in 1970. Feminism does seem to me to be my life and in that sense, born in 1950, I am the person I am because of the 1960s.

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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 social and cultural change in the 1960s.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'It was internal divisions and weaknesses that kept the Labour Party out of power in the years 1955 to 1963.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

'Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy, in the years 1979 to 1987, was overwhelmingly successful.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

To what extent did Britain become a multicultural society in the years 1997 to 2007?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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