

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY

Unit 2

Alternative P: Early Georgian Britain, 1714–1748

HS2P

Wednesday 6 June 2007 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS2P.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A The large body of Country gentlemen in Parliament had to be won over; their support could never be taken for granted. Walpole devoted himself to this objective by playing the country squire, by keeping the Land Tax low, and by a peaceful foreign policy. By indulging in such political arts with
 5 patience and care, Walpole ensured the respect of most MPs, and this was to be one of his greatest political assets.

Adapted from F O’GORMAN, *The Long Eighteenth Century: British Political and Social History 1688–1832*, 1997

Source B Adapted from Lord Hervey’s *Memoirs of the Reign of George II*, published c1742

The weight of the whole administration lay on Walpole: every project was formed, conducted and executed by him. Considering the little assistance he received from subordinates, it is incredible how much business he got through. No man was ever blessed with a clearer head, a truer judgement,
 5 or a deeper insight into mankind; he knew the strengths and weaknesses of everyone he had to deal with, and how to take full advantage of these. There never was any minister to whom access was so easy, nor whose answers were more explicit. He knew how to govern without oppressing, and how to conquer without triumph.

Source C Walpole realised, sooner and clearer than most, that there were two essential and related sources of power – the King and the Commons. Walpole not only held the confidence of both, but also he was the link between them; as a commoner, he was able to occupy a key position at the centre of the
 5 political machine. He dominated government business through the inner cabinet, a body of about five ministers which dealt with important matters. However, his dependence on the Crown (as shown in the succession crisis of 1727) and the lack of collective cabinet responsibility, were weaknesses.

Adapted from G WILLIAMS and J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain 1688–1988*, 1990

(a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly what was meant by ‘the Land Tax’ (line 3) in the context of British politics under Walpole. (3 marks)

(b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how useful **Source B** is as evidence about the personal qualities of Walpole. (7 marks)

(c) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

‘Support of the Crown was the main reason for Walpole’s long tenure of office.’ Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

EITHER 2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

Stanhope had won his political supremacy by loyalty to the Elector of Hanover rather than to the King of Great Britain.

Adapted from P LANGFORD, *The Eighteenth Century, 1688–1815*, 1992

- (a) Comment on ‘loyalty to the Elector of Hanover’ in the context of Stanhope’s foreign policy in the years 1714 to 1721. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Britain was involved in the Great Northern War in the years 1714 to 1721. *(7 marks)*
- (c) Was a successful foreign policy the most important factor in explaining the establishment of Whig domination in the years 1714 to 1721? *(15 marks)*

OR 3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

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- (a) Comment on ‘grain yield’ in the context of agriculture in the early eighteenth century. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why developments in agriculture occurred in the first half of the eighteenth century. *(7 marks)*
- (c) Explain the importance of iron manufacture, in relation to other factors, in explaining the expansion of the British economy in this period. *(15 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1, Source C: From G WILLIAMS and J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain 1688–1988*, Longman, 1990.

Question 2: From *The Eighteenth Century, 1688–1815* by P LANGFORD, (London 1992). Published by permission of A & C Black Publishers Ltd.

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