

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

Unit 5

Alternative U: Britain, 1951–1997

HS5U

Monday 18 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 HS5U.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- 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.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.
- In answering both Question 1(b) in Section A and your choice of question from Section B, you are advised to draw on an appropriate range of historical knowledge and skills, to demonstrate overall historical understanding for the synoptic assessment requirements for this question paper.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

SECTION A

You **must** answer this question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question.

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

Source A

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Source B Adapted from the memoirs of Douglas Jay. Douglas Jay was a member of the Labour government

- 1951 was the most fiercely fought, passionate, neck-and-neck, exhausting campaign of all the parliamentary elections I contested. But we had almost everything against us – the Bevanite quarrel, the loss of Bevin, and the swing back of votes due to the revival of anti-Labour propaganda in the national press. The result was very close – Labour won more votes than ever before – but the 1951 result determined the course of British politics for more than thirteen years afterwards. The Conservative government that won in 1951 was destined to coast along in the economically easy years of the 1950s. Thanks to the tough policies of the Attlee governments, there was the first real rise in living standards since 1939 and a relaxation of controls and restrictions. If Attlee had not felt compelled to call an election in 1951, the post-war Labour government would itself have coasted through to the easy years.

Source C

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- (a) Use **Sources B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

To what extent do these two sources agree in their view of the 1951 general election and its consequences? *(10 marks)*

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

‘Labour disunity, rather than the so-called ‘post-war consensus’, was the main reason why the Conservatives dominated British politics in the years 1951 to 1964.’
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

SECTION B

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 2 ‘The sixties saw an old world die and a new one born.’
How convincing is this assessment of society and culture in Britain between the late 1950s and the early 1970s? (20 marks)
- 3 ‘Harold Wilson came to power promising a brave new world; the reality was an era of disappointment.’
How valid is this verdict on the Labour Government’s record in power in the years 1964 to 1970? (20 marks)
- 4 ‘A golden age.’
‘A period of continuous decline.’
Which of these statements provides the more convincing assessment of the performance of the British economy in the years 1964 to 1979? (20 marks)
- 5 ‘The economic advantages of being a member of the EEC far outweighed any political fears.’
How valid is this assessment of Britain’s relationship with Europe in the years 1973 to 1997? (20 marks)
- 6 ‘Margaret Thatcher did not “turn Britain around” despite her claims to have done so.’
How convincing is this view of the record of the Conservative governments in the years 1979 to 1990? (20 marks)
- 7 ‘Conservative weakness, rather than any reorganisation of the Labour Party under Tony Blair, was the main reason for Labour’s landslide victory in the 1997 general election.’
How valid is this explanation? (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS**

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Question 1 Source A: N TIRATSOO (ed.), *From Blitz to Blair: A New History of Britain Since 1939*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson (a division of the Orion Publishing Group), 1997.

Question 1 Source B: D JAY, *Change and Fortune: A Political Record*, Hutchinson, 1980.

Question 1 Source C: Taken from *Finest and Darkest Hours: The Decisive Events in British Politics from Churchill to Blair* by Kevin Jefferys, published by Atlantic Books, 2002.

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