

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY
Unit 1

HS1K

Alternative K: Social and Economic History, 1914–1939

Monday 2 June 2008 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 black ink or black 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 HS1K.
- 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 Perhaps the industry which best deserves the term ‘new industry’ is that based on the synthetic fibre known as ‘artificial silk’ or ‘rayon’. In 1919 the UK was Europe’s largest producer of rayon. Between 1919 and 1929, British production of rayon rose from 5.5 million pounds in weight to 52.4 million pounds as the industry expanded the range of clothes produced from rayon.

Adapted from P DEWEY, *War and Progress*, 1997

Source B In 1913 Britain had produced 34 000 motor vehicles; by 1924 this figure had risen to 146 000. Mass production using assembly line methods led to the concentration of the industry in a few major centres, especially in the Midlands at Coventry, Birmingham and Oxford, as well as nearer London at Luton. The first real mass market car, the Austin Seven, was produced in 1921. However, growth in the inter-war years was not simply the result of ‘new industries’, such as car production, but also a result of a positive demographic trend as the working population grew as a proportion of the total population.

Adapted from J STEVENSON, *British Society 1914–1945*, 1984

Source C Adapted from *The Road to Nab End*, a book written by William Woodruff in 2002 in which he recalls growing up in inter-war Britain

When I told Mr Peek I wanted to be a weaver like my father he did not think it was a good idea. Mr Peek explained to me that since 1921 the Lancashire cotton industry had been in decline. Since then, Mr Peek said, many parts of the world have shut out our goods. We simply can’t match the Japanese, Indian and Chinese prices. America is hitting us from the other side; she is miles ahead of us now. Any industry that gets all its raw material from abroad and sells 80% of its cloth overseas is bound to struggle when other countries catch up, he added.

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

Explain briefly the importance of ‘new industry’ (line 1) in the context of Britain’s textile industry in the years 1921 to 1929. *(3 marks)*

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

Explain how **Source B** challenges the view put forward in **Source C** regarding the state of the British economy in the 1920s. *(7 marks)*

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

Explain why some industries developed more than others in Britain in the years 1919 to 1928. *(15 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

EITHER

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

In the Great Depression in Britain the decline in manufacturing industry led to a sharp rise in unemployment and a drop in prices.

Adapted from P DEWEY, *War and Progress*, 1997

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘the Great Depression’ in the context of Britain in the years 1929 to 1931. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Britain left the Gold Standard in 1931. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘Cheap money was the most important reason for the recovery of the British economy in the years 1931 to 1939.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

OR

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

On the new housing estates the councils often preferred tenants with steady incomes to avoid rent arrears. One Liverpool docker’s wife remembers they could not move to a new estate because her husband was regularly laid off.

Adapted from P HORN, *Women in the 1920s*, 1995

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by the ‘new housing estates’ in the context of Britain in the years 1919 to 1939. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why governments failed to solve Britain’s housing shortage in the years 1919 to 1939. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘The response of governments to the economic problems of the British working class in the years 1919 to 1939 was limited because of lack of money.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1 Source A: P DEWEY, *War and Progress*, Longman, 1997

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Source C: W WOODRUFF, *The Road to Nab End*, Abacus, 2002. By permission of Eland Publishing Ltd. © William Woodruff

Question 2: P DEWEY, *War and Progress*, Longman, 1997

Question 3: P HORN, *Women in the 1920s*, Sutton, 1995. © Pamela Horn

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