

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



## HISTORY

### Unit 5

Alternative R: Britain, 1918–1951

HS5R

Wednesday 4 June 2008 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 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 HS5R.
- 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 about 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.

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

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**SECTION A**

You **must** answer this question.

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

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

**Source A**

A brief text extract adapted from V ROTHWELL, *The Origins of the Second World War*, 2001, which details Britain's lack of military power during the inter-war period due to a huge reduction in military spending during this period. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B**

A brief text extract adapted from M ARTHUR, *Forgotten Voices of the Second World War*, 2005, detailing Britain's movement towards war in 1938-39 following Hitler's increasingly aggressive foreign policy, invasion of Czechoslovakia and finally Poland. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source C**

Recollection by Evelyn White, a civilian in Birmingham, of the outbreak of war

- I remember vividly 'peace in our time', Neville Chamberlain coming back from Munich. We thought, 'Thank God, it's going to be peace. It's not going to be war.' But of course, events proved us wrong. I began thinking, 'Is it going to be like the First World War?' when thousands of men were killed. I thought, 'Is it going to be a repeat? What's going to happen to my brothers?'
- 5

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

To what extent do these two sources agree on Britain's reluctance to become involved in war during the inter-war years? *(10 marks)*

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

'Neville Chamberlain's agreement with Hitler at Munich in September 1938 was as much the result of British public opinion during the inter-war years as it was fear of German power.'

Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

**Turn over for the next question**

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**SECTION B**

Answer **one** question from this section.

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- 2 'He created the situation which led to his own downfall in 1922.'  
'The Conservatives kept him in power only as long as they needed him.'  
Which view about Lloyd George in the years 1918 to 1922 is the more convincing? (20 marks)
- 3 'Economic rather than social factors brought about the changes in the leisure pursuits of British people in the years 1918 to 1951.'  
How valid is this judgement? (20 marks)
- 4 'In the years 1929 to 1935 Ramsay MacDonald, as Prime Minister, was in office, but it was Stanley Baldwin who was politically dominant.'  
Assess the validity of this statement. (20 marks)
- 5 'Britain's economic recovery in the years 1931 to 1939 took place because new industries compensated for the decline of the staple industries.'  
Assess the validity of this statement. (20 marks)
- 6 'Labour won the 1945 General Election because of the poor record of the Conservatives in the 1930s rather than because of its own appeal.'  
How convincing is this view? (20 marks)
- 7 How far was Britain's limited role in the reconstruction of Europe, in the years 1945 to 1951, the result of her economic weakness rather than a lack of political will? (20 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 1 Source A: V ROTHWELL, *The Origins of the Second World War*, Manchester University Press, 2001

Source B: M ARTHUR, *Forgotten Voices of the Second World War*, Ebury, 2005. Reprinted by permission of the Random House Group Ltd.

Source C: *ibid*

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