



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## History

## HIS2R

**Unit 2R A Sixties Social Revolution? British Society, 1959–1975**

**Tuesday 22 May 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 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 HIS2R.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

### Question 1

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

**Source A** Adapted from a journalist's interview with 24-year-old 'Jane', who visited a doctor in the early 1960s, having had two children and miscarried a third since marrying three years earlier

The doctor said there was this new thing called the Pill that you just took in the morning. I know this sounds odd but I hadn't even heard of it. I don't think he had ever prescribed it before. It was completely wonderful. It changed my life. I felt in control. I felt free. Before I had been on it a year, I had an affair. It was not because  
5 I hated my husband, but I think now I did it because I could get away with it. It wasn't just the Pill of course, but the Pill did something else too. It made sex news. There were other things that happened in the early 1960s, the Christine Keeler business and the Lady Chatterley case. Suddenly, you could talk about sex at dinner parties because it was in the newspapers. It was the Pill, I think, that made it possible for  
10 things to change.

**Source B** By the end of the 1950s, British newspapers were reporting the imminent arrival from America of the 'no-baby drug' and doctors first prescribed the Pill in January 1961. They were besieged by enquiries from women keen to try out the new invention and by the summer of the following year about 150 000 women were taking it, rising to  
5 an estimated 480 000 in 1964. These figures might be superficially impressive, but they are nowhere near large enough to bear out the common claim that the Pill was a major cause of revolution. During the mid-sixties the Pill was simply not a factor in the lives of most British women.

Adapted from D SANDBROOK, *White Heat*, 2006

**Source C** For some, the wider availability of consumer goods and services that were previously regarded as luxuries was the decade's defining characteristic. For such people, cultural revolution was less about sexual freedom and more about High Street spending. The Sixties was the age when people were preoccupied with themselves,  
5 and consumption was important because it offered more people the chance to buy themselves identities and lifestyles. Capitalism generated profits by persuading people that the route to personal fulfilment lay in buying the latest 'must-have' consumer item.

Adapted from M DONNELLY, *Sixties Britain*, 2005

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the contraceptive pill in the 1960s. (12 marks)

and

**0 2** Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was cultural change in Britain in the 1960s due to the contraceptive pill? (24 marks)

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**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why there were national miners strikes in Britain in the years 1972 to 1974. *(12 marks)*

**and**

**0 4** 'The governments of both Harold Wilson and Edward Heath, in the years 1964 to 1974, were completely out of touch with the changes that were taking place in British society.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the Commonwealth Immigrants Act was passed in 1962. *(12 marks)*

**and**

**0 6** 'By 1975, most immigrant communities had been successfully assimilated into British society.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source C: Adapted from M DONNELLY, *Sixties Britain*, Pearson Education Limited, 2005. © Pearson Education Limited 2005.

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