

AS HISTORY

Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Component 2M Society in Crisis, 1906–1929

Wednesday 25 May 2016 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2M.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From a speech by J Ramsay MacDonald to the Parliamentary Labour Party in early October 1924, reflecting on the performance of the Labour government of 1924.

When the opportunity came, I never had a moment's hesitation. To have avoided responsibility would have been cowardly, and would have damaged our position in the future. We honestly believed that the country was in bad hands and that its policy was not well directed. Could we manage to do something to mould national policy in new shapes? Some things we should like to do we saw quite plainly we could not do, and here we had to face a little disappointment. We had to get our rank and file to understand that an enduring structure would require great preparation of the foundations. Some of our work had to be frankly patchwork, including the problems of unemployment and housing.

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Source B

From a speech by Willie Gallacher, a leading member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, addressing party members in May 1924.

Any genuine Labour Government must be ready to openly identify with the workers in order to combat capitalism. The present government has no intention of doing this. It has been rightly called Conservative, for it would be difficult to find another government so anxious to conserve the whole outworn fabric of Parliament. Already the Labour Government has abandoned all its original pretensions. It started off with assurances that it only contemplated taking office for a short period. But no sooner were they in office than they commenced aiming for an extended period of administration and, thus, they scrapped anything and everything that could have distinguished a Labour Government from an ordinary capitalist administration. This is treachery to the working class.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the performance of the first Labour government in 1924?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'The Liberal Party won the 1906 election because of its commitment to Free Trade.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'By 1919, British society had been fundamentally changed as a result of the First World War.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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