

473/05

HISTORY – HI3

UNIT 3

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929-1939

A.M. THURSDAY, 12 January 2006

(1 hour 30 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

The sources or quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

UNIT 3

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929-1939

Answer one question in Section A and one question in Section B.

SECTION A

Answer one question.

1. Political change, 1929-1939.

Study the source below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon it.

‘The Blackshirts attracted support among intellectuals in search of excitement. Its leaders were mostly middle class with a high number of ex-army officers. Within eighteen months of its formation it was claiming a membership of twenty thousand. These people were fitted out with black shirts, drilled and paraded and transported to meetings all over the country. It was clear that the movement had ample funds. Lord Rothermere gave it his backing, which meant the backing of the *Daily Mail* with a circulation of over one and a half million, the *Evening Standard* and the *Sunday Dispatch*. The motives of Moseley’s rich backers were not hard to understand. It was a time of uncertainty in which old values seemed to be crumbling and with them, perhaps, the very foundations of the established order. Every effort was made to enlist support among the best people to prevent this.’

[From Noreen Branson and Margaret Heinemann, academic historians writing in a general history book, *Britain in the 1930s* (1971)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the phrase ‘Blackshirts’ (line 1). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about the appeal of the fascist movement in Britain? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of political change from 1929-1939? [20]
(*You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.*)

2. Economic and social change, 1929-1939.

Study the source below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon it.

‘I left school at fourteen in 1932 when the depression was at its worst in the valleys. For weeks I reported to the local pit with my father, but as grown men with experience could not get work, there was little hope for a young boy. My mother eventually asked the local coal merchant to get me a job, so I began my career picking coal from the tips, for which I was paid at the rate of
5 sixpence [2.5p] per hundred weight [50kg] sack. If the pickings were good I could earn £2 a week, but mostly it was less than ten shillings [50p] a week. Many times I would work from 8.00p.m. on a Friday evening right through the night and most of Saturday, finishing at 4.00p.m. on a Saturday afternoon. A friend of mine had gone to work in England, as a servant, in a big public school. When home for his holidays he would delight us with his stories, about good food, his own room,
10 regular hours, time off. I wrote off and asked if they had a job for me. I was called for an interview and taken on as a houseboy. I left Wales shortly after my sixteenth birthday and entered a very different world.’

[J.T. Dyer, recalling his life as a boy in the Rhondda in South Wales, in an interview for a newspaper (1986)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the phrase ‘the depression’ (line 1). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about coalmining in this period? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of economic and social change in Britain 1929-1939? [20]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.)

SECTION B

Answer one question.

3. Cultural and Technological change, 1929-1939.

Study the sources below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon them.

Source A

‘I want a full-time wife, whose main interest in life will be her home, her children and her husband - me. I want a wife to do her duty, to listen to my troubles and to soothe and comfort me. I want a wife whose first and only interest is me - and then our home. Is this too much to ask? Is this not the role of women?’

[An anonymous letter, published in the magazine *Woman's Own*, a traditional and conservative publication (1938)]

Source B

‘There is little doubt that the role of women has changed dramatically as a result of the depression and the advancement in technology. The idea of the “little woman” staying at home while the man goes off to work is no longer appropriate. Times are changing and the world is no longer the stomping ground of men alone.’

[From a letter by Mary Bell, a campaigner for women's issues, published in a local newspaper, *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (1938)]

Source C

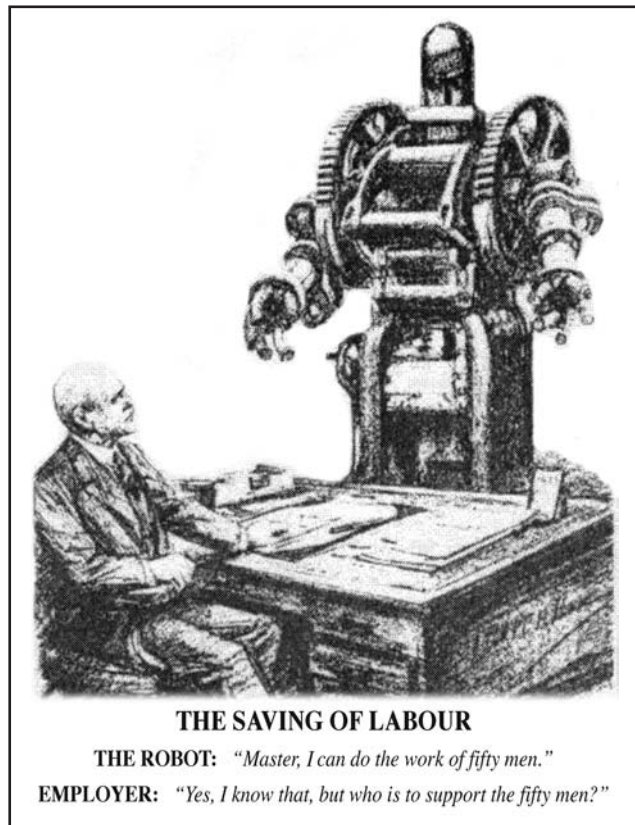
‘Joe Louis, the holder, beat Tommy Farr, of Tonypandy, on points over 15 rounds for the world heavy-weight boxing championship at the Yankee Stadium, New York last night. Farr was a gallant loser and put up the bravest fight seen in any ring. When referee Donovan raised Louis' arm in victory the crowd booed for at least four minutes. In the words of Jack Dempsey, former heavy-weight champion, Farr covered himself with glory and left the ring a popular hero.’

[From a feature in the *Western Mail*, a Welsh newspaper (August 1937)]

Source D

‘In 1937, after years of waiting, there came a specific radio service for the people of Wales. By 1939 nearly 75% of families had their own radio set. The cinema competed with radio. With a 6d [2.5p] ticket you could escape from the harsh realities of life. By 1939 there were 4,776 cinemas in Britain, selling, on average nearly 23 million tickets each week.’

[From Roger Turvey, an academic historian and teacher, writing in a general history text book, *Wales and Britain 1906-1959* (1997)]

Source E

[A cartoon from *Punch*, a satirical magazine, commenting on the effects of mass production lines and new automated machinery (1933)]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. How do Sources A and B show differing views about attitudes towards women in society? [8]
- (b) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D as evidence to an historian studying popular entertainment in this period? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources for an understanding of cultural and technological change from 1929-1939? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the sources.)

4. British foreign policy 1929-1939.

Study the sources below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon them.

Source A

‘Be glad in your hearts. Give thanks to your God. People of Britain, your children are safe. Your husbands and your sons will not march to war. Peace is a victory for all mankind. If we must have a victor, let us choose Chamberlain.’

[An editorial comment in *The Daily Express*, a supporter of the appeasement policies (30th September 1938)]

Source B

‘I am sure that on hearing the news about the Munich conference, thousands of people will be shocked and humiliated because the Fascists have got everything they asked for without firing a shot - we have thrown Czechoslovakia to the wolves.’

[From Harold Nicolson, an MP and critic of the Munich Agreement, in a diary extract (1st October 1938)]

Source C

‘When war did come in 1939, it found a country and Commonwealth wholly united and prepared, and convinced that every effort had been made to avoid it. That was the big thing that Chamberlain did.’

[From Lord Halifax, British Foreign Secretary 1937-1940, in his memoirs, *Fullness of Days* (1967)]

Source D

‘British foreign policy after 1937 must qualify as one of the most degrading episodes in history. Under pressure from the ruthless, the clueless combined with the spineless to achieve the worthless.’

[From Norman Davies, an academic historian, in his general history book, *Europe* (1996)]

Source E



[A cartoon entitled *Stepping Stones to Glory* by David Low, published in the *Evening Standard* (1936)]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. How do Sources A and B show contrasting views about the Munich Conference? [8]
- (b) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D as evidence to an historian studying British foreign policy between 1937-1939? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources for an understanding of British foreign policy from 1929-1939? (You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.) [24]