

473/05

HISTORY – HI3

UNIT 3

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929-1939

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 June 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 and quotations used in the 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. Economic and social change, 1929-1939.

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

5 ‘The worst effects of the slump have been felt in four of the basic industries of this country - namely coal, iron and steel, shipbuilding and textiles. The unemployment which has affected these industries is not an unemployment occasioned by seasonal conditions in the whims and fancies of fashion, as might be said by certain other minor trades. There is evidence of the very big breakdown of the capitalist order of society when the basic industries of the system are plunged into continuous slump; when the mines are sealed up and allowed to become flooded; when steel works are allowed to rust and crumble; when special companies are formed to undertake the task of dismantling and breaking up shipyards; and many millions of valuable textile spindles are turned into scrap metal.’

[Wal Hannington, a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, in his political pamphlet, *The problem of the disaffected areas* (1937)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the word ‘slump’ (line 6). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about the economic condition of Britain? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of economic and social change, 1929-1939? [20]

(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background information as well as information derived from the source.)

2. Cultural and Technological change, 1929-1939.

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

‘Entertainment consisted of a visit to the local cinema, “The Palace”, the snooker hall (always full of unemployed young men), the workman’s hall or “Empress” ballroom. When you could not afford to do any of this, boy met girl on the local promenade, and this is how I met my wife. A special treat was a visit to the market at Pontypridd, a few miles away on a Saturday afternoon. I was still a youth during the depression years. I cannot honestly say I remember much about the strikes and political unrest of the time. Communication then was not what it is today. Contact with the outside world was maintained through the local newspaper, radio and cinema newsreels. Few people had telephones. Young people then were not exposed to world events via the media, in the same way they are today. I would not say that we were in any way unhappy. We were lucky really in that we were one of the few families with a bathroom, most miners used a tin bath in front of the fire. We were also lucky to be able to afford a holiday from time to time, though I was eighteen before I travelled more than thirty miles from home.’

[William Thomas, writing about his recollections of life in the 1930s, in a chapter in a book entitled *Voices from the Past* (1986)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the phrase ‘depression years’ (line 5). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about life for young people at this time? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of cultural and technological change 1929-1939? [20]

(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background information as well as information derived from the source.)

SECTION B

Answer one question.

3. Political change, 1929-1939.

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

Source A

‘When discussing the reasons for forming a National Government, the Prime Minister said that it must be admitted that the proposal went against everything the Labour Party stood for, and yet he was absolutely satisfied that it was necessary, if the country was to be saved.’

[Official Cabinet records, written by the Cabinet secretary and signed and approved by Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister (19th August 1931)]

Source B

‘To bestow on these politicians the tag of acting in the national interest is distasteful in the extreme. By forming a National Government they have thrown the unemployed back on the Poor Law to satisfy City bankers and their own desire for continuation in high office.’

[Beatrice Webb, a Labour Party MP, in her diary entry (23rd September 1931)]

Source C

‘The British Union of Fascists was trying to turn people against each other and we were determined to stop them. As soon as Moseley arrived in Cable Street a brick went through his car window. The Fascists lined up as we jeered them, they saluted their leader and they marched through the deserted streets. A great crowd were standing there, and their disapproval was obvious.’

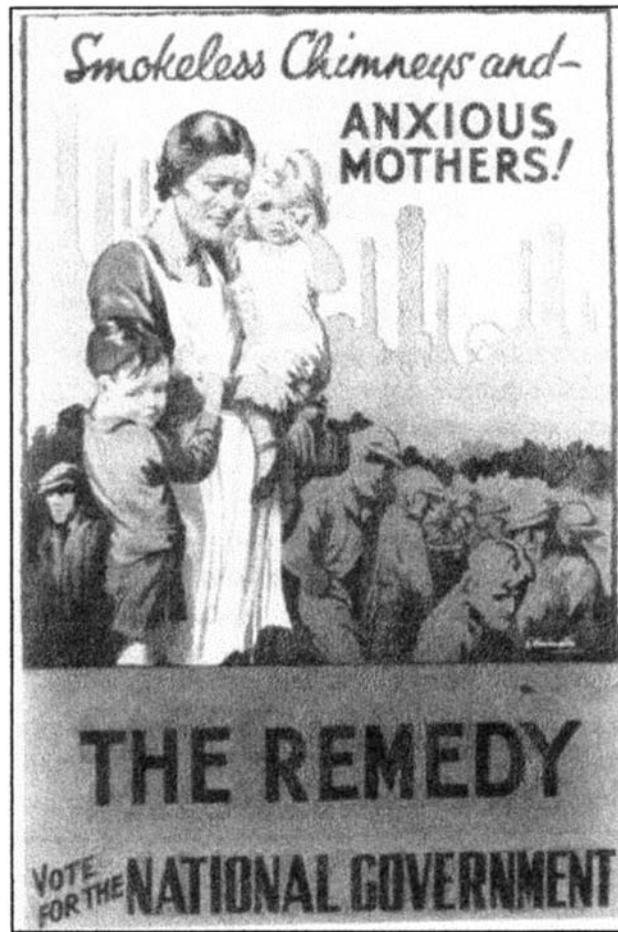
[Recollections of Phil Piratin, a Communist sympathiser, in his autobiography, *Our Flag stays Red* (1948)]

Source D

‘In the face of Government inaction and the meddling of City financiers and those elements in society that feed on disorder and chaos I call upon the British electorate to vote with their conscience and vote for the only party in Britain which has the skills, the ideas, and the unity necessary to undertake the strong measures required.’

[Oswald Moseley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, in an election speech at a political rally in London (1935)]

Source E



[A General Election poster, asking voters to support the National Government (1931)]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. How do Sources A and B show contrasting views of the reasons for the formation of the National Government? [8]
- (b) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D as evidence to an historian studying the British Union of Fascists? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of political change, 1929-1939? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background information as well as information derived from the sources.)

4. Foreign Policy, 1929-1939.

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

Source A

‘It would be a very dangerous thing for us to advocate war with Italy over the Abyssinian crisis. The Navy is immobilised and the home fleet is in no state for war - it is no use going to war trusting to luck.’

[Admiral Chatfield, a prominent Naval commander, in a private letter to the Cabinet
(8th August 1935)]

Source B

‘We are ready, our fleet is prepared in the Mediterranean and we have our reinforcements ready for our call. But what can we do when not a ship, not a machine, not a man has been moved by any other country to help us.’

[Sir Samuel Hoare, British Foreign Secretary, in a speech to the House of Commons
(December 1935)]

Source C

‘The hour of need has found the man. Since he took office, Mr Chamberlain has never wavered in his determination to establish peace in Europe. At a time when the dark clouds of war hung most menacingly over the world, the Prime Minister took a wise and bold decision. Well may we call him ‘Chamberlain the peacemaker.’ Three cheers for Chamberlain.’

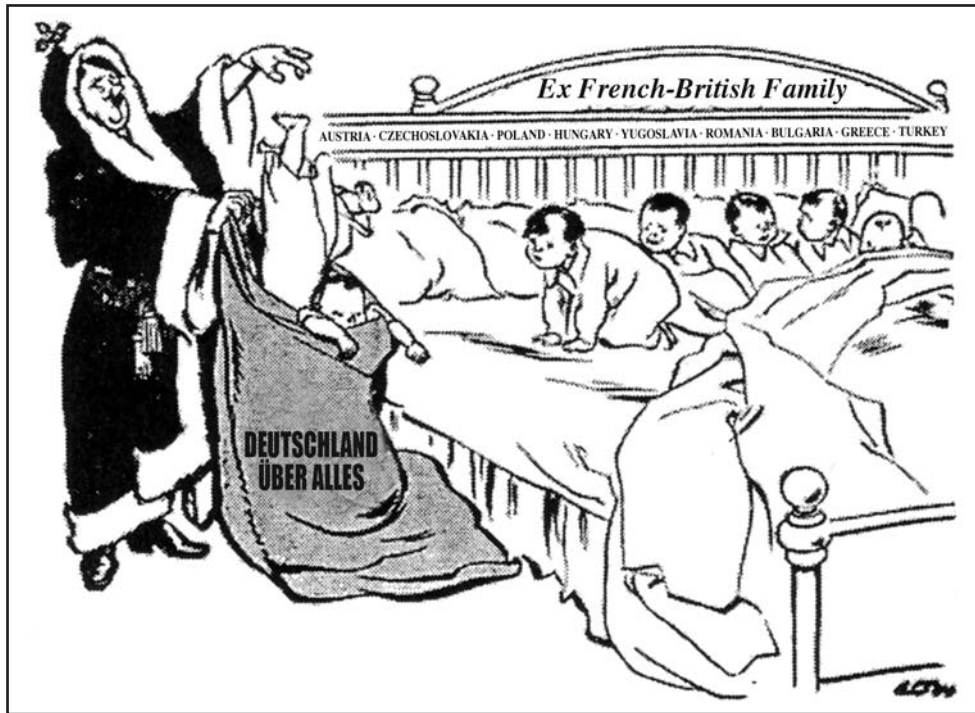
[From *Pathe News*, a cinema newsreel commentary, funded and influenced by the Government,
(21st September 1938)]

Source D

‘I am afraid that I, unlike you Prime Minister, remain sceptical of Nazi promises and shall do so until I see peaceful words accompanied by pacific deeds. I can therefore only regard the present situation you have put us in, not as peace in our time, but as an uneasy truce.’

[Oliver Stanley, a Cabinet minister, in a private letter to Neville Chamberlain (3rd October 1938)]

Source E



[A cartoon by David Low for the *Evening Standard* newspaper, commenting on German foreign policy (10th October 1938)]

- (a) Compare Sources C and D. How do Sources C and D give contrasting views of Chamberlain's actions in 1938? [8]
- (b) Study Sources A and B. How reliable are Sources A and B as evidence to an historian studying British military strength in 1935? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of British foreign policy 1929-1939? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background information as well as information derived from the sources.)