

476/17

HISTORY - HI6

UNIT 6 (Synoptic Assessment)

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929 - 1939

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 20 June 2007

50 minutes (of a 1 hour 40 minutes examination)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

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.

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

UNIT 6**IN-DEPTH STUDY 5****BRITAIN, c. 1929 - 1939**

Answer one question.

Candidates are reminded that their answers should demonstrate a synoptic approach to the question and should draw together, where appropriate, the political, social, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the topic.

1. Wales, c. 1929 - 1939.

Study the sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

“This era has seen women come to the forefront of social life here in Wales. Films like “Proud Valley” and “The Stars Look Down” have shown the reality of life; in that the Welsh ‘Mam’ has had to bear the brunt of these hard times, and has kept families and communities together. These films do them great justice, and we must acknowledge this truth in the forthcoming election campaign.”

[W.H. Mainwaring, the Member of Parliament for Rhondda,
in a private letter to a Labour Party colleague (1937)]

Source B

“For the people that remained in Wales, the quality of life cannot have been anything other than meagre. Life on the dole meant a struggle for bare existence. Any Government aid was based upon a bureaucratic and seemingly inhumane approach. Being kept alive on those terms was scarcely worthwhile.”

[K.O. Morgan, an academic historian and Labour Party supporter, specialising in the history of Wales, writing in his general history book, *Wales: Rebirth of a Nation 1880-1980* (1981)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Wales between 1929-1939?
[80]

2. Britain in transition, c. 1929-1939.

Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

“The enduring image of the 1930s is that of the unemployed man - on hunger marches; on street corners; in the dole queue. But beyond that we should always be aware of those two or three at home whom he has to support. The 250,000 unemployed are responsible for wives and children, and their survival rates provide a timely insight into the standard of living and how successive governments have failed to act.”

[An editorial comment in the *Yorkshire Factory Times*, a left wing newspaper that promoted itself as the champion of the poor (1936)]

Source B

“In reality there was a significant increase in real incomes and real wages - the nation was also generally better fed and clothed, and was housed in better conditions than at any time before. The statistics show an improvement in the national health and physical well-being of the population. Death rates declined, children were fitter and women had more freedoms than ever before.”

[D.H. Aldcroft, an academic historian specializing in the social and economic history of Britain, writing in his general history book, *The Inter-War Years* (1970)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Britain in transition, 1929-1939? [80]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The extract from *Wales: Rebirth of a Nation* is published with the kind permission of University of Wales Press.