



GCE AS/A level

1232/05 – **LEGACY**



S16-1232-05

HISTORY – HY2

UNIT 2

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

Britain, c. 1929-1939

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 25 May 2016

1 hour 20 minutes

1232
050001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

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 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 2**IN-DEPTH STUDY 5****Britain, c. 1929-1939**

Answer either question 1 or question 2.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

The BUF attracts its support from intellectuals and ordinary people in search of change. Its leaders are mostly middle class with a high number of ex-army officers also. They are well organised and peaceful. Within eighteen months of its formation it has a membership of twenty thousand. These people are fitted out with black shirts, drilled and paraded and transported to meetings all over the country in order to spread the message of change. It is a time of uncertainty in which old values seem to be crumbling and with them, perhaps, the very foundations of the established order. Like a phoenix rising from the flames the BUF offers hope.

[Lord Rothemere, editor of the right-wing supporting newspaper, *The Daily Mail*, writing in an editorial comment (1936)]

Source B

Charges and counter charges were taking place along “the front” from Tower Hill to Gardeners Corner. Many arrests were made and many communists were injured. It was the police, however, who were carrying on the battle while the fascists lurked in the background, protected by a fence of police. Mosley was late. As soon as he arrived in a motor car, a brick went clean through the window. The Fascists finally lined up, saluted their leader, and marched through the deserted City to the Embankment. The fight was on.

[Phil Piratin, a communist who took part in the ‘Battle of Cable Street’ in October 1936, writing in his memoirs, *Our Flag Stays Red* (1948)]

Source C

We despised the Means Test and everything it stood for. For us it was nothing more than government sponsored stealing. When we knew the administrators were coming we would round up the local community and we would be there waiting for them. They would always turn around and come back with the police at their heels. By then we had cleared the targeted house of all its property. We were united and prepared to go to jail rather than give in to these thieves.

[Jack Dixon, recalling his life during the Depression for a BBC television programme, *The best and worst of times* (1986)]

Source D

Given the lack of money and resources available to the government at the time, administering the Means Test was a real achievement in a necessary battle to combat over-spending. It is true, in some areas the Means Test was applied in an insensitive manner but for the most part people accepted the principle that what little money there was should be given to those in genuine need. There were very few assaults on Means Test administrators and, for the most part, people accepted the situation as a necessary step to combat the Depression.

[R M Hutt, an academic historian and specialist in social history, writing in his A level text-book, *Social Recovery and Britain* (1980)]

Source E

The Labour Government was caught in the economic blizzard but Snowden's hesitancy and MacDonald's inability to take decisions made things worse. MacDonald in fact was to show as time progressed that he had no constructive ideas, while Snowden at the Treasury became too rigid in his belief in Free Trade and the Gold Standard. I had not fully appreciated their defects until MacDonald took office a second time. I then realised his reluctance to take positive action and noted with dismay his increasing vanity and snobbery.

[Clement Attlee, a Labour MP and future Prime Minister, recalling the events of 1931 in his autobiography, *As it happened* (1954)]

Source F



[A poster showing the arrival of the Hollywood film *Frankenstein* in Rhyll, North Wales (1930)]

- (a) What does the author of Source A mean by the phrase “It is a time of uncertainty in which old values seem to be crumbling”? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How significant was the influence of minority parties on British politics in this period? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the Means Test was unfair for the British people? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources A, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

BLANK PAGE

QUESTION 2

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

It angers me when I hear people saying that the cinema and its appeal saved us in Britain from the Depression. How utterly simplistic and derogatory is that? To think that our suffering, our poverty, our starving families could somehow forget their miserable plight for even a second let alone a couple of hours by going to the cinema is insulting. For us the 1930s was a desperate and heart-breaking decade. We didn't go to the cinema, it reminded us too much about how wretched our lives were.

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

Source B

The continuous appeal of the movie is that it satisfies the people's desire for new experience and it gives them a glimpse of other worlds. It gives the people an escape from the present environment. At the cinema all limitations drop away and for three hours they ride the plains of Arizona, they sail the seven seas or penetrate African jungles. Famous comedians make the people laugh and forget their difficulties and discouragements.

[E.W. Bakke, an American social investigator, who toured Britain for a short period during the 1930s, writing in his report, *The Unemployed Man* (1933)]

Source C

The National Government has taken up the task where the deserters have left off. The work of the National Government has saved the nation. It will complete its task and return Great Britain once more to its pre-eminent position in the world. Its work has already established confidence in industry at home and in our financial honesty abroad. Trade is beginning to improve. The workers can now look forward to employment instead of dole.

[Phillip Snowden, the Chancellor of the National Government, giving his views on the government's record in *The Times* newspaper (1931)]

Source D

For all the posturing the National Government did very little to act upon the promises made at its inception in 1931. They acknowledged the existence of four depressed areas and two commissioners were appointed to revive them. Not much came of this. The country could not be brought back to life by a little prodding. In 1936 one of the commissioners even conceded that he had failed because he had no powers with which to attract new industries. In all, by 1937, work had been found for 12,000 men, an unimpressive total.

[A.J.P. Taylor, an academic historian specialising in British history, writing in a general history book, *English History* (1975)]

Source E

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 Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists, in a speech at a political rally in London (1935)]

Source F

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

- (a) What does the author of Source C mean by the phrase “The National Government has taken up the task where the deserters have left off.”? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How important was the cinema in relieving the experiences of the British public during the Depression years? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the National Government was largely ineffective? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources A, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

END OF PAPER