

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 2**

**HS2Q**

**Alternative Q: Britain, 1815–1841**

Monday 2 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

A brief text extract adapted from B HILTON, *A Mad, Bad and Dangerous People? England 1783-1846*, 2006, describing the apparent lack of respect for established authority that was being shown by the lower classes through events such as the Spa Field Riots and the textile workers uprising at Pentrich in Derbyshire. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B** Adapted from the autobiography of Samuel Bamford, a handloom weaver from Middleton in Lancashire, published in 1844

The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act was a cause of anxiety to us. King's Messengers arrived; government warrants were issued and the persons they mentioned were taken to prison. It seemed as if the sun of freedom were gone down and a dark cloud of oppression had finally closed over us. Our chapel-keeper, in fear, turned the key upon us and told us we could no longer meet there. Open meetings being suspended, we held secret ones at night, but hundreds slunk home to their looms, too afraid to come to meetings.

**Source C** In 1817, Parliament authorised the government to spend £750 000 for the employment of the labouring poor on public works. In 1819, Liverpool's government carried through its only significant piece of social legislation, the Cotton Factory Act, which forbade the employment of children under 9 years old in cotton factories and limited the hours of work for minors aged 9–18 years old to 12 hours per day. The government also relied heavily on the likely effects on the working classes of the spread of the Church of England. In 1818, Liverpool's government persuaded Parliament to vote £1 million for building Anglican churches in the cities.

Adapted from W D RUBINSTEIN, *Britain's Century*, 1998

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- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the meaning of 'the suspension of *habeas corpus*' (line 4) in the context of Britain in the years 1815 to 1827. (3 marks)

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how useful **Source B** is as evidence about the effectiveness of the government in suppressing radical opposition. (7 marks)

- (c) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

'Lord Liverpool's greatest success in domestic policy, in the years 1815 to 1827, was in avoiding revolution.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**EITHER**

2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

The Speenhamland system, despite its generosity, failed to end discontent amongst the rural poor as shown by the Swing Riots of 1830–1831.

Adapted from W D RUBINSTEIN, *Britain's Century*, 1998

- (a) Comment on 'the Swing Riots' in the context of discontent in Britain in the years 1830 to 1831. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why the Whigs passed the Great Reform Act in 1832. (7 marks)
- (c) Explain the importance of social and economic change, in relation to other factors, in explaining why the Whigs introduced reforms in the years 1833 to 1841. (15 marks)

**OR**

3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from J W DERRY, *Castlereagh*, 1976, stating that although Castlereagh did support the Congress System he was glad that Britain had an excuse, in the form of George III's illness, not to join the proposed Holy Alliance of Tsar Alexander. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Comment on 'the Congress System' in the context of British foreign policy in the years 1815 to 1822. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why there were difficulties in relations between Britain and Russia in the years 1822 to 1829. (7 marks)
- (c) Explain the importance of maintaining the balance of power in Europe, in relation to other factors, in explaining British foreign policy in the years 1815 to 1829. (15 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 1 Source C and Question 2: W D RUBINSTEIN, *Britain's Century*, Arnold, 1998. Reproduced by permission of Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd.

Question 3: J W DERRY, *Castlereagh*, Penguin, 1976, p.189. Reproduced by permission of Penguin Books Ltd.

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