

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

HS5S

Unit 5

Alternative S Maturity, Change and Crisis in the British Economy and Society, c1830–1914

Wednesday 4 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 HS5S.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- 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.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.
- In answering both Question 1(b) in Section A and your choice of question from Section B, you are advised to draw upon an appropriate range of historical knowledge and skills, to demonstrate overall historical understanding for the synoptic assessment requirements for this question paper.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

SECTION A

You must answer this question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question.

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

Source A By 1831, expenditure on poor relief topped £7 million and higher poor rates brought about renewed debate. It has often been said that had it not been for the increased demands of poor rates there would have been no new Poor Law, but landowners believed this was the price they had to pay for social stability. What
5 doomed the old Poor Law was that, despite spending this amount, there were still the Swing Riots and destruction of property in the south of England.

The new Poor Law did initially reduce poor rates. However, as the Commissioners moved north to form parish unions, the economy took a sharp downturn, with resulting mass unemployment. Fear of the workhouse became
10 folklore and riots broke out. It was realised as early as the 1840s that outdoor relief could not be dropped. Poor Law Reports between 1840 and 1870 show that indoor relief in the workhouse never rose above 15% of all relief given. Research suggests that by 1871 only 1 in 6 unions operated strict 1834 terms.

Adapted from D FRASER, *The Evolution of the British Welfare State*, 1984

Source B Adapted from *Reports from Commissioners: Poor Laws*, 1834

The most essential of all conditions is that the situation of the individual shall not be made so eligible as that of the independent labouring class. Throughout the evidence it is shown that as the conditions of the pauper class rise above those of the independent labourers, the situation of the latter is depressed and
5 their wages are diminished. Such persons, therefore, are under the strongest encouragement to join the more eligible paupers. Every penny given, which amounts to several millions annually, renders the condition of the pauper more eligible than that of the independent labourer and is a reward for idleness and immorality. We recommend that all relief to able-bodied persons, other than in
10 workhouses, should now be outlawed and that parishes be compelled to co-operate through a new central authority.

Source C Despite opposition, the 1834 Poor Law prevailed. There were many who enthusiastically pointed to the benefits of ‘well-regulated’ and uniform workhouses and paupers. But the Act did not produce these benefits, as shown by scandals which broke out in the 1840s. Furthermore, the central principle of the workhouse test and the abolition of outdoor relief was widely ignored. In fact, outdoor relief was often cheaper for ratepayers and thus more attractive. In times of mass unemployment, such as the 1840s and the Lancashire cotton famine of the 1860s, the Poor Law was totally inadequate to cope with widespread distress. The 1834 principles became eroded, as the workhouse became the refuge for the old, the sick, the mentally ill and the young. By 1870 there was a slow realisation that factors other than moral failure were responsible for poverty.

Adapted from N TONGE, *Industrialisation and Society 1700–1914*, 2002

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

To what extent do **Sources A** and **B** agree on the reasons for the reform of the Poor Law?
(10 marks)

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

‘The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 was a success for the ratepayer, but a disaster for the poor.’
Assess the validity of this view in the years to 1870. (20 marks)

Turn over for the next question

SECTION B

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 2 ‘The failure of trade unions was due more to their own weaknesses than to the opposition of government and employers.’
Assess the validity of this statement in the years 1830 to 1870. (20 marks)
- 3 How far was industry undermined more by foreign competition than by its own failure to adapt to new technology in the last quarter of the nineteenth century? (20 marks)
- 4 ‘The Depression in agriculture was caused more by foreign imports than by a failure in farming methods.’
Assess the validity of this view in the years 1875 to 1914. (20 marks)
- 5 How far was government involvement in education due more to political concerns rather than to economic factors in the years 1850 to 1914? (20 marks)
- 6 ‘It was more the tactics of the supporters of women’s suffrage, rather than the opposition of male politicians, which denied women the national vote.’
Assess the validity of this view in the years 1860 to 1914. (20 marks)
- 7 ‘The social legislation of the Liberal governments in the years 1906 to 1914 was motivated more by financial than by political considerations.’
Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1 Source A: D FRASER, *The Evolution of the British Welfare State*, Macmillan, 1984. Reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan

Source C: N TONGE, *Industrialisation and Society 1700–1914*, Nelson Thornes, 2002

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