

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY
Unit 6W

HS6T

**Alternative T: Great Britain and Appeasement
in the 1930s**

Thursday 12 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 HS6T.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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 part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

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

Source A There can be no doubt of the widespread horror of war, especially for the sake of Czechoslovakia, a country not well known to the British population, nor can one mistake the relief felt that the Munich deal had avoided such conflict; but it would be naïve to assume that Chamberlain and his close colleagues were mere weather-
5 vanes, pointing in the direction of the prevailing winds of public opinion.

From P KENNEDY, *The Realities Behind Diplomacy*, 1981

Source B Adapted from a speech by Stanley Baldwin to the House of Commons,
12 November 1936

I put before the whole House my own views with an appalling frankness. Remember in 1932 the Disarmament Conference was sitting in Geneva. At the time there was probably a stronger pacifist feeling running through this country than at any time since the war. You will remember the election at Fulham in the
5 autumn of 1933, when a seat which the National Government held was lost by about 7 000 votes on no other issue but pacifism. I asked myself what chance was there – when the feeling that was given expression to in Fulham was common throughout the country – what chance was there within the next year or two of that feeling being so changed that the country would give a mandate for rearmament?
10 Supposing I had gone to the country and said that Germany was rearming, and that we must rearm, does anybody think that this peaceful democracy would have rallied to the cry at that moment? I cannot think of anything that would have made the loss of the election more certain.

Source C Chamberlain regarded the League of Nations as incapable of providing collective security without the membership of several major powers. He held France and its statesmen in near contempt. Of particular concern were French economic and industrial troubles which hindered its rearmament programmes. His opinion of
5 Anglo-American relations was that ‘it is always best to count on nothing from the Americans except words’. His private letters indicate he had no faith in Soviet military capabilities and considered the Russians untrustworthy as a potential ally.

Adapted from S ASTER, ‘Guilty Men: the case of Neville Chamberlain’, in P FINNEY (ed), *The Origins of the Second World War*, 1997

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

Assess the validity of the views in **Source A** about Neville Chamberlain's reasons for abandoning Czechoslovakia at the Munich Conference in 1938. *(10 marks)*

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

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of the pacifism of Stanley Baldwin's government? *(10 marks)*

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

'Public opinion had a greater influence on the foreign policies of Baldwin's government than on the foreign policies of Chamberlain's government.'
Assess the validity of this view of the years 1935 to 1939.

(20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source C: S ASTER, '*Guilty Men: the Case of Neville Chamberlain*', in P FINNEY (ed), *The Origins of the Second World War*, Arnold, 1977.
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