



General Certificate of Education

History 1041

Specification

Unit HIS2H

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – June series

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Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

Unit HIS2H

Unit 2H: Britain, 1902–1918: The Impact of New Liberalism

General Comments

The overall quality of responses to the question was good. Many candidates had a sound knowledge base and some had a clear ability to apply this in an analytical and evaluative context. Some answers to Question 1 tended to be based on descriptive detail drawn from the sources. This approach is less prevalent than in previous years but there is still a propensity amongst some candidates to opt for a source descriptive approach. This does little to enhance candidates' results in terms of the marks awarded. Questions 03 and 05 also often generate responses which are based on extended lists of reasons. Although this shows a good knowledge base it does not tend to lead candidates into the higher level of marks because it lacks evidence of evaluative detail or linkage. There was an encouraging move towards balanced analyses in the other questions. It was clear that many candidates had prepared themselves to challenge the propositions in the type of questions represented by 04 and 06. Equally there were some very good answers to 02 because the candidates addressed the key words 'How successful'.

Question 1

- 01** A few candidates focused on the provenance of the sources and suggested that because they authors were of the same Party and therefore believed the same things then there was little to distinguish them. This approach suggested a rather cursory assessment of the sources. Most candidates were able to establish clear similarities and differences although there was some limitation on the development of these responses. A few answers drifted into lengthy descriptions of the welfare reforms. Essentially candidates need to identify a range of similarities and differences and expand these through their own knowledge. From this base they need to show how these factors are connected and an awareness of the contextual detail.
- 02** This question generated some very good answers. Many candidates had a good working knowledge of the welfare reforms. The best organised answers were those that spent some time identifying the aims of the Liberals and then evaluating whether these were achieved. Some candidates produced subtle commentaries on the hidden motives and often linked these to the sources, particularly Source A. There was clear evidence that many candidates had a sound knowledge and understanding of the political imperatives and the issues of national efficiency and common humanity. Relatively few candidates presented answers that were entirely source dependent and even fewer failed to follow the instruction of using both the sources and their own knowledge.

Question 2

- 03** Most responses displayed a good knowledge of this issue. A few answers moved towards why Britain was involved in the Boer War or why the war was such a struggle for the British. Perhaps the most significant drift away from the focus of the question set lay in the determination of some candidates to consider why the Conservatives lost the 1906 General Election. It became increasingly clear that many candidates had prepared answers to a question set in the period they wanted but one that was not focused on the

issue they wanted. There are a number of obvious lessons to be learned from this approach to examination preparation. The best answers were those that not only identified a range of relevant reason but also establish clear linkage between them.

- 04** Answers to this question were of variable quality. A number of candidates seemed to have only a limited knowledge and understanding of the development of the Labour Party. Most were aware of the 1903 Lib-Lab pact but often had limited awareness of developments beyond this. The best answers were often those that were able to place the Labour Party into the overall political context of the specified period. The majority argued that the Labour Party remained an marginal force although some referred to the growing decline of the Liberals and the limitations of the Conservatives. There were some good analyses of the 1910 elections and the rising significance of the Irish Nationalists and the impact of that on the Labour Party.

Question 3

- 05** There were some very good answers to this question. Some candidates had a good understanding of the condition of Britain by the middle of the First World War. Many had a sound awareness of the political divisions within the government and the urgency of forming a more effective administration. There were some developed analyses of Lloyd George and his role in the process. Other less developed responses focused on the problems facing the government and often did so in a descriptive way and one that was often not directly related to the specific issues focused on in the question.
- 06** This question generated some very good answers. It was clear that the majority of those who answered this question had a sound knowledge and understanding of the state of Britain during the war. More importantly they had an awareness of the changes that took place. Many answers were able to address the question head on and challenge the idea that state control was so absolute and so effective. Less developed responses took the view that control was total and final. There were some good references to the situation in Ireland and to the position adopted by the suffragette movement and the role of women in general.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.