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# A-level HISTORY

## Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Paper 2M

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2M**.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 60 minutes on Question 01
    - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01

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**Source A**

From Lady Maxwell, wife of Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell. She wrote this letter of appeal in late August 1914. It was widely reproduced in newspapers across the country over the next few months.

Men of England, you have heard the cry – England needs you – yet you loiter still. You send off others to fight or die, but you cannot make up your mind. Shirking discomfort, dreading death! Every man in Germany, every man in France has risen at their country's call and gone forth to prove their manhood or to die. Will Englishmen alone sit by the fire and spin? Must we feel ashamed to be Englishmen when we see you skulking at home, watching football or cricket, lying on the grass, safe and secure, while the manhood of Europe is shedding its blood. I am a woman and I cannot go. But my man has gone! England needs you to save her liberty and to protect her shores. Wives, give up your husbands. Mothers send forth your sons. Will you let the Germans brand you as a nation of cowards? Nearly 100,000 men have answered the call; but what of the million who remain behind? Remember it is for England's sake.

**Source B**

From a letter from DL Rowlands, writing home to his sweetheart in February 1918, describing his role in the Third Battle of Ypres in October 1917.

My first experience of the line was on the Ypres salient. Oh it was a lovely 'baptism of fire'. If ever a fellow was afraid, absolutely frightened to death, it was me. One of my Section took shell shock when a big 'un dropped a couple of yards off the parapet. I had twelve men when we went in, I came out with three. It was ghastly. Perhaps you would like to know something of the spirit of the men out here now. Well the truth is (and I'd be shot if anyone of importance collared this missive) every man is fed up and nobody has an ounce of patriotism left. No-one cares whether Germany has Belgium or France. All that everyone desires is to get done with it and go home. That's the honest truth. It is just the thought of you, who trust me to do my share of the job that is necessary for your safety and freedom, that that keeps me going.

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**Source C**

From a transcript from the Newcastle Tribunal hearing in 1916 where Jack Sadler, a member of the No-Conscription Fellowship, was applying for exemption from conscription on the grounds that he was a Conscientious Objector.

Chairman: What is the best way to do away with war?

Sadler: You will never do away with war by being a soldier. If there were no armies and no navies, there would be no war.

Chairman: The Germans would be here if we had no army and navy.

At this point the members of the tribunal tried to shout the applicant down.

Sadler: I stated when I was interrupted that if Britain had no armies or navies other countries would not need them. The reason we have armies and navies is because of fear of foreign foes. Germany has one for the same purpose; consequently they are all following a superstition.

I cannot violate my moral responsibilities and the dictates of my conscience and, if I am compelled to go into the army against my will, I do not intend to conform to any instructions and consequently I may be shot. If anything happens to me I hold you personally responsible for it.

Chairman: Your case is disallowed Mr Sadler.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying British attitudes towards the First World War.

**[30 marks]**

**Section B**Answer **two** questions

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**0 2**

'Government legislation failed to improve lives for the working class in the years 1906 to 1914.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]****0 3**

How important was Labour's manifesto 'Let Us Face the Future' to its election victory in 1945?

**[25 marks]****0 4**

'Most of our people have never had it so good.'

Assess the validity of Macmillan's view about life in Britain in the 1950s.

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Question 1 Source B: [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk) (Imperial War Museum)Question 1 Source C: [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk) (Peace Pledge Union)

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