

A-level HISTORY

Component 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2S.
- 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.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Source A, an extract from a speech by Arthur Scargill to the Socialist Labour Party, 2009 cannot be reproduced here due to third party copyright restrictions.

Source B

From Margaret Thatcher's autobiography, 'The Downing Street Years', published in 1993, in which she recalls the critical moments of her time as Prime Minister.

As an industrial dispute the coal strike had been wholly unnecessary. The NUM's position throughout the strike – that uneconomic pits could not be closed – was totally unreasonable. Yet the coal strike was always about far more than uneconomic pits. It was a political strike. And so its outcome had a significance far beyond the economic sphere. Our determination to resist a strike emboldened the ordinary trade unionist to defy the militants. What the strike's defeat established was that Britain could not be made ungovernable by the Fascist Left. The strike certainly established the truth that the British coal industry could not remain immune to economic forces. In spite of heavy investment, British coal has proved unable to compete on world markets. Marxists wanted to defy the laws of economics. They failed, and in doing so demonstrated just how mutually dependent a free economy and a free society really are. It is a lesson no one should forget.

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Source C

From an internal policy document produced in 1977 by a Conservative Party strategy group chaired by the right-wing MP Nicholas Ridley. It is known as the Ridley Report.

More and more, the nationalised industries are run for the benefit of those who work in them. Their aim is jobs for the boys, and more money for each boy, rather than satisfaction for the customer. As a long term policy, government should find a way of breaking up nationalised industries into smaller, independent units, which could eventually be denationalised, and of ending its vulnerability to powerful unions in vital industries. It should be asked whether we have the political willpower for such a policy. 5

There is no point in undertaking it if we are not prepared to go through with it. Trade unions would oppose denationalisation so it should not be attempted by frontal attack, but by a policy of stealth. There is no doubt, however, that at some point the enemies of the next Tory government will try and destroy this policy. The most likely is the miners. 10
We should prepare for this and there are sections later in this paper describing how we should do this.

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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 the reasons for the 1984/85 miners' strike.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'The Conservative 'stop-go' economic policies in the years 1955 to 1964 fundamentally weakened the British economy.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 'The reason behind Britain's attempts to join the EEC in the years 1967 to 1973 was that Britain could no longer claim to be a world power in its own right.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 How successful was New Labour in creating a fairer and more equal society in Britain by 2007?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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