

476/17

HISTORY - HI6

UNIT 6 (Synoptic Assessment)

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929 - 1939

A.M. FRIDAY, 23 June 2006

50 minutes (of a 1 hour 40 minutes examination)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The sources or quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

Candidates are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in their answers.

UNIT 6

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

BRITAIN, c. 1929 - 1939

Answer **one** question.

Candidates are reminded that their answers should demonstrate a synoptic approach to the question and should draw together, where appropriate, the political, social, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the topic.

1. Wales, c. 1929 - 1939.

Study the sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

‘The spirit in the valleys helps to soften many of the hardships of unemployment. I’m glad I haven’t got a son. To see him deteriorate because of a lack of work would have broken me. I’ve been out of work for eight years, I’ve worked eleven days down the pit in all those years. Work used to shape our lives, but now we have to face the fact that this will not be so any more.’

[John Evans, an unemployed miner from the Rhondda Valleys in South Wales, quoted in a book of contemporary recollections, *Time to Spare* (1935)]

Source B

‘Unemployment and depopulation had an adverse affect on the Welsh language. In 1931, 811,000 people spoke Welsh, but this figure plummeted, proof that economic prosperity was essential for its survival. Plaid Cymru presented a bold programme of economic reforms but they were ignored by a largely English-dominated press.’

[Geraint Lewis Jones, an academic historian specialising in the history of Wales, in an Advanced level history text-book, *History of Britain 1914-1964* (1988)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Wales between 1929-1939?
[80]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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2. Britain in a time of change, c. 1929-1939.

Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

‘As for the marches by the unemployed on London, they are undesirable in this country, governed by a Parliamentary system, where every adult has a vote and every area a representative in the House of Commons to put forward grievances and suggest remedies. Ministers will not encourage such actions, and will not consent to receive any deputation of marchers, although of course, they will always be prepared to meet any Members of Parliament.’

[A statement by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, published in *The Times* (15th October 1936)]

Source B

‘Baldwin was a man who preferred to shut his eyes to problems in the hope that they would go away, while MacDonald retreated into incoherence. MacDonald in 1935 was 69 years old and was incapable of making an intelligible speech, while the 68 year-old Baldwin was becoming increasingly deaf. Waiting in the wings was the 66 year-old disease-ridden Chamberlain. There was little political reaction to the problems of the 1930s. Society never stood a chance.’

[Charles Loch Mowat, an academic historian specialising in the history of Britain, in a general history book, *Britain between the Wars* (1955)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Britain in a time of change, 1929-1939? [80]