



GCE AS/A level

1232/05

HISTORY – HY2

UNIT 2

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

Britain, c. 1929-1939

A.M. TUESDAY, 21 January 2014

1 hour 20 minutes

1232
05/0001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

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

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

UNIT 2**IN-DEPTH STUDY 5****BRITAIN, c. 1929-1939**

Answer either question 1 or question 2.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

The unemployed man stands there motionless as a statue, cap pulled over his eyes, gaze fixed on pavement, hands in pocket, shoulders hunched, the bitter wind blowing his thin trousers tightly against his legs. Waste paper and dust blew about him in spirals, the paper making harsh sounds as it slid on pavements.

[Walter Greenwood, a novelist and left-wing social commentator, writing in an article in the magazine, *Labour Life* (1934)]

Source B

On the whole, my husband has worked about one year out of eight and a half. His face was lovely when I married him, but now he is skin and bones. When I married he was strong and he had a good job. He was earning eight to ten pounds a week. Then the depression came and he fell out of work, so I've hardly known what a week's wage was. We don't waste anything and there's no enjoyment comes out of our money – no pictures, no papers, no sport.

[Mrs. Pallas, a housewife from South Wales, recalling her experiences in a BBC radio programme in 1936.]

Source C

For five years we have enjoyed an economic recovery which is still continuing. Employment has increased by over half a million and the level of wage increases is on the up. Many industries are breaking all previous records in production and our social services are expanding. There has never been a period when the people have been more prosperous, better cared for and more contented.

[Stanley Baldwin, the British Prime Minister, speaking in a cinema newsreel broadcast (21 November 1936)]

Source D

Historians have revised their grim picture of the 1930s. Prices fell sharply, average incomes rose by a third, three million houses were built and many new items were widely available: radiograms, telephones, three piece suites, cookers, vacuum cleaners and golf clubs. People ate Kellogg's Corn Flakes, drove to Odeon Cinemas in Austin Sevens and smoked Craven A cigarettes.

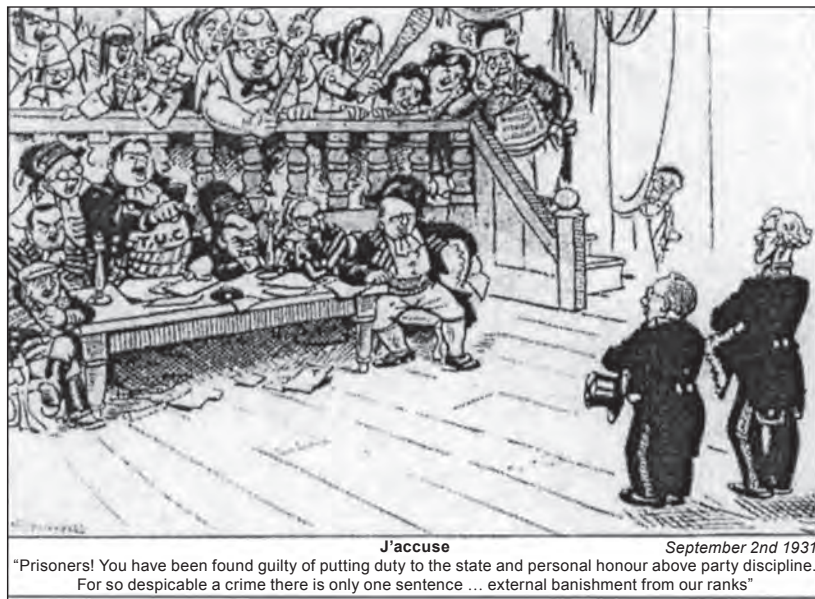
[Piers Brendon, an historian, writer and journalist, specialising in British history, writing in a newspaper article (5 July 2008)]

Source E

In the vast majority of cases it is obvious that unemployment has been primarily responsible for crime, and it is becoming more and more apparent that industrial conditions are having a most disastrous effect upon the character of the youth and young men of this area who find it impossible to obtain employment. It is little wonder that in some areas the unemployed are drawn towards groups that are interested in creating trouble and political disharmony.

[From an article in the *Birkenhead News*, a left-wing paper, known for its support for the unemployed (1932)]

Source F



[A cartoon from the *Daily Express*, a right-wing newspaper, published on 2nd September 1931. MacDonald is depicted as an aristocrat charged before a revolutionary committee. An ordinary citizen is shown looking from behind the curtain.]

- (a) What does the author of Source E mean by the phrase ‘the unemployed are drawn towards groups that are interested in creating trouble and political disharmony’? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How significant were the effects of unemployment in Britain in this period? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the 1930s was a period of development and prosperity? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources B, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

QUESTION 2

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

The sanitary conditions of South Wales houses are terrible. Many condemned houses are being broken into and occupied by families unable to get any other housing. Large families are now sharing houses, living in kitchen cellars, living rooms and all other available spaces. Frequently we are met with the reply 'we cannot find better accommodation or we would soon get out'. The government has abandoned these people to poverty.

[Allen Hutt, a journalist and left-wing political activist, writing in his political and social survey, *The condition of the working classes in Britain* (1933)]

Source B

There was an impressive amount of house building during the 1930s. It says a lot about the period that there was a huge investment by the government in new homes. Such investment helped people during the depression, and roughly 3 million more houses were built during the period. Construction and refurbishment was at an all-time high and by 1939 about one family in three was living in a modern house.

[Stephen Constantine, an historian and specialist in the social history of Britain, writing in his A Level text book, *Social Conditions in Britain 1918-1939* (1983)]

Source C

The post-war development of cheap luxuries has been a very fortunate thing for our rulers. It is quite likely that fish and chips, art, silk stockings, tinned salmon, cut-price chocolate, the movie, the radio, strong tea and football have between them averted a revolution.

[George Orwell, an author and social commentator, writing in his social survey, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937)]

Source D

Thanks in main part to the Conservatives, Britain did well during the depression and for many millions it was not a time of unrelieved gloom and misery, but rather a period of rising wealth, opportunity and falling prices.

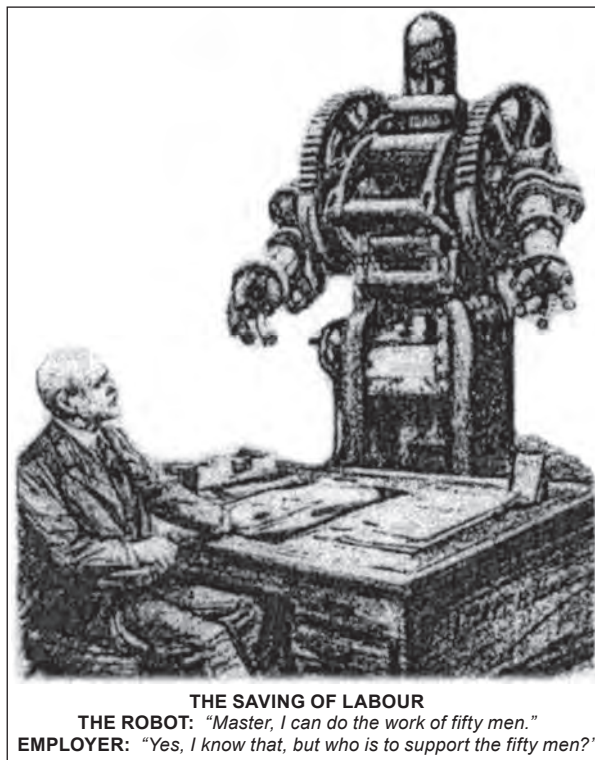
[Norman Gash, an historian and specialist in the history of Britain, writing in his book, *The Conservatives – a history from their origins to 1965* (1977)]

Source E

To bestow on these politicians of the 1930s the tag of acting in the national interest is distasteful in the extreme. They have thrown the unemployed back on the scrap heap to satisfy City bankers and their own desire for continuation in high office. They are pandering to the banks because they do nothing to curb their excesses. The cuts being proposed are harsh and unnecessary.

[Beatrice Webb, a leading socialist, economist and reformer, writing in her diary (23 September 1931)]

Source F



[A cartoon from *Punch*, a satirical magazine, commenting on the effects of mass production lines and new automated machinery (1933)]

- (a) What does the author of Source E mean by the phrase “They have thrown the unemployed back on the scrap heap to satisfy city bankers”? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How significant was government action in response to the Depression? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the 1930s was a period of unrelenting suffering? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources A, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

END OF PAPER