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GCSE

# History B

91453 Britain and the Aftermath of War  
Controlled Assessment Sources (Specimen Only)

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9145

Version: 1.0

Specimen for June 2015 examinations

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**Source A** The writer George Orwell comments on the Means Test in his book, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, published in 1937

The most cruel and evil effect of the means test is the way that it breaks up families. Old people are driven out of their homes. For instance, an old age pensioner, if a widower, would normally live with one of his children. His weekly pension goes towards the household expenses. Under the means test, however, he counts as a lodger and if he stays at home his children's dole will be docked.

**Source B** A table showing the number of houses built in England and Wales

	Local authority	Private	Total
1919-24	176,914	221,543	398,457
1925-29	326,353	673,344	999,697
1930-34	286,350	804,251	1,090,601
1935-39	346,840	1,269,912	1,616,752
1940-44	–	–	151,000
1945-49	432,098	126,317	588,415
1950-54	912,805	228,616	1,141,421

**Source C** The historian Dr Paul Addison assesses the importance of the welfare reforms of the Labour Government, 1945–1951

The memory of desperate times in the Thirties was still alive in many minds, so the introduction of social security was an immense step forward for the benefit of the people. For the first time the whole of the working population was protected from falling into poverty, and everyone helped to pay for the cost of the safety net through their regular contributions.

But of all Labour's reforms, the most radical was the NHS. For the first time ever, a comprehensive range of medical services was available completely free of charge. However, the days of a completely free NHS were numbered almost from the start. The cost was much higher than originally anticipated. So Hugh Gaitskill, the Chancellor, was forced to introduce charges for false teeth and spectacles in 1951. In 1952 his Conservative successor, RA Butler, introduced general prescription charges.

From *Yesterday's Britain*, published by the Reader's Digest in 1998

**Source D** An official photograph of the new town of Harlow, built as a result of The New Towns Act of 1946



**Source E** A photograph of an unemployed man in Wigan during the Depression of the 1930s.



**Source F** Two historians' view of the 1930s.

Published in J Stevenson and C Cook, *The Slump*, 1979

The popular image of the 1930s is of 'wasted years' – years of mass unemployment, dole queues, the means test and hunger marches. This is an image securely based upon reality for the many thousands of families who suffered the miseries of unemployment. It would be silly, then, to suggest that the 1930s were not for many thousands of people a time of great hardship and personal suffering. But beyond this picture of the unemployed must be put the other side of the case. There were never less than three-quarters of the population in work during the 1930s and for most of the period considerably more. Alongside the pictures of the dole queues and hunger marches must also be placed those of another Britain: of new industries, prosperous suburbs and a rising standard of living.

**Source G** An advertisement from the 1930s for a vacuum cleaner.

In the 1920s and 1930s the demand for electrical appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, increased.



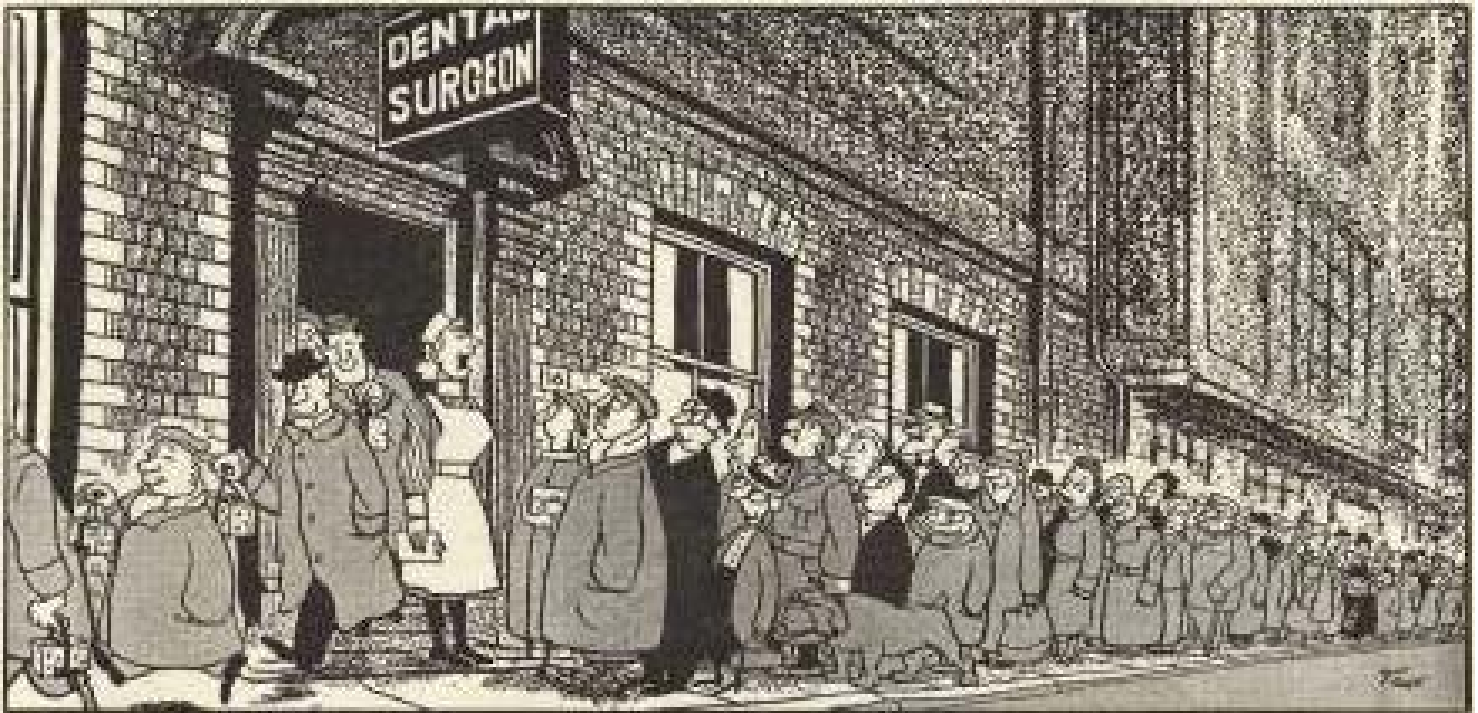
**Source H** A photograph showing the devastation in Liverpool after a bombing raid in 1940.



**Source J** A *Daily Express* cartoon, published in 1949.

The nurse is saying 'Dentist says if there are any more of you thinking of fitting one another up with National Health teeth for Christmas presents, you've had it'.

The cartoon is commenting on problems of government spending after the Second World War, following the introduction of the NHS.



**Source K** From 'A History of Modern Britain' by Andrew Marr. It was published in 2009 and accompanied a BBC television series.

After the guns had stopped in 1945, rationing went on unbearably long. It was still biting hard at the end of the forties. Meat was still rationed until 1954. And though the poor were better fed, most people felt hard done by. Shortly after the horrific 1947 winter was over, the British Medical Press carried a detailed article by a doctor which argued that available foods were 400 calories short of what women needed each day, and 900 calories short of what men required. 'In other words, everyone in England is suffering from chronic malnutrition.' Politicians angrily disagreed pointing out the effects of all that free juice, codliver oil and milk on Britain's children.



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