

**1336/02B**

# **Edexcel GCSE**

## **History Syllabus C**

### **Schools History Project**

Specimen Paper 2B: Crime, Punishment and Protest

Sources Booklet

*Turn over*

**Edexcel**  
Success through qualifications

**Source A:** A song sung by dockers on their daily march through London in August and September 1889.

Sing a song of sixpence,  
Dockers on the strike.  
Guinea pigs as hungry,  
As the greedy pike\*.  
Till the docks are opened,  
Burns for you will speak.  
Courage lads, and you'll win,  
Well within the week.

(\*pike = a fish which eats other fish)

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**Source B:** A photograph of part of one of the marches. It shows the coal heavers' float. The marchers used floats to show the sort of work they did at the docks.



**Source C:** Evidence given in November 1888 by James Gray, a dock labourer. He was giving evidence to a Committee set up by the House of Lords to enquire into conditions of work in the East End of London.

As a rule I have to struggle for employment. Yesterday I waited at the London Docks No.5 gate from half past eight till half past eleven. A half past eleven there were about 350 men waiting for employment. A contractor came to the gate for 14 men. He had that number of tickets to give out. Of course there was a struggle between us men to gain one of these tickets. Your Lordships may imagine a kind of cage where men struggle like wild beasts.

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**Source D:** From a newspaper, *The East London Advertiser*, 24 August 1889, describing a march by London dockers.

These men and their families are starving. They would be glad of the food daily thrown to the kennels of noblemen. Looking at that seething mass, we admired their self-control. They could in ten minutes have broken into every shop within a mile and satisfied their craving for food.

Contrast this with the French mob which cried “Give us bread”. Instead, the independent English docker says, “Give me work and pay me fairly”. That is the point of this whole strike, a fair wage.

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**Source E:** From *The Times* newspaper, 22 August, 1889.

A mid-day procession was formed in which more than 20,000 men took part. It was accompanied by four brass bands and a large number of banners and flags. In the procession were various groups of wagons illustrating the work many of the men had to do.

Mr Burns led the mass meeting. He said, “We have great additions to our numbers: there are few blacklegs left in the docks now. Public feeling is strongly in our favour and many people along the route of the procession have given us money. Our magnificent procession, two miles long, has shown the dock companies what working men can do. The authorities have brought 2,000 extra police into the district, but I am sure they are not needed. I am sure the thousands of men assembled here will not give the police any trouble”.

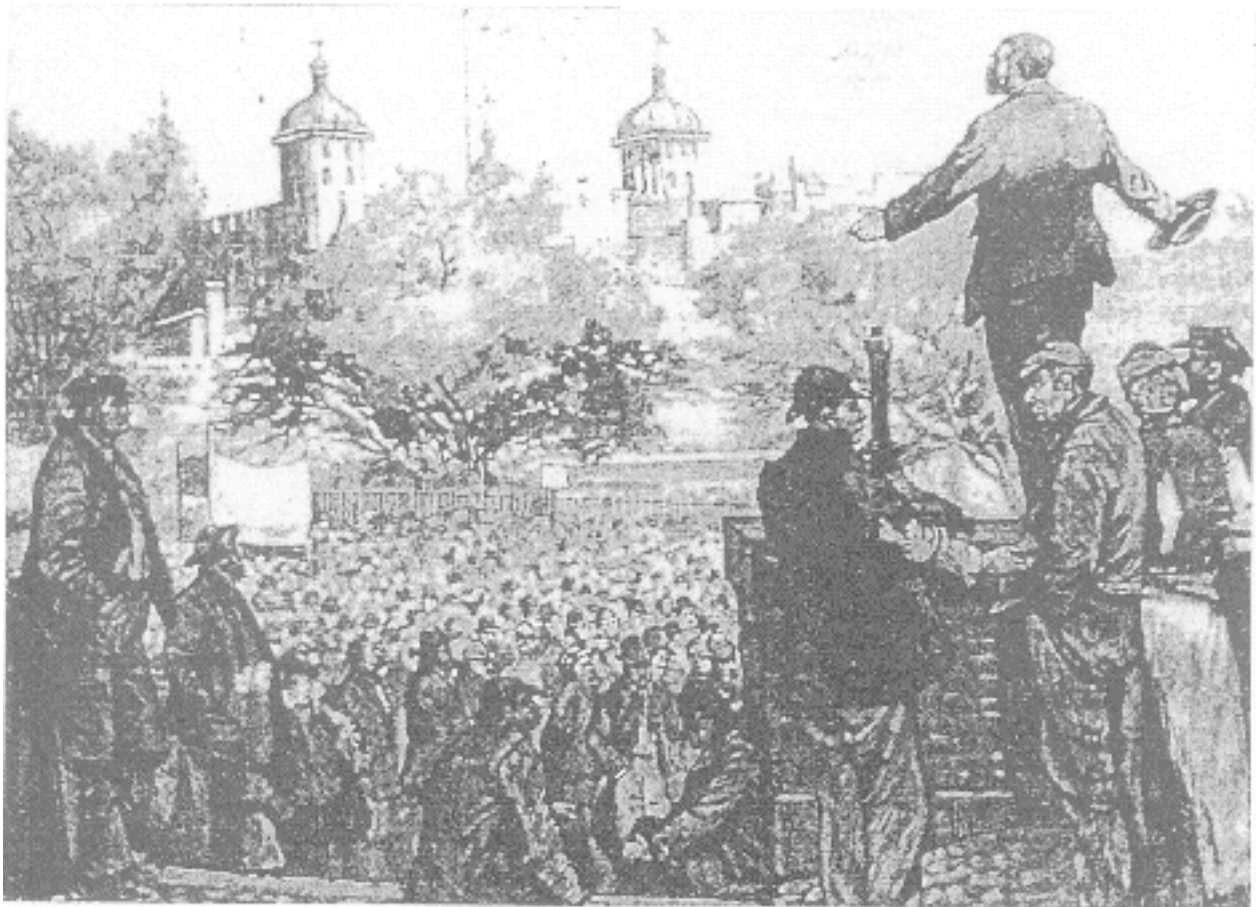
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**Source F:** From a letter written to *The Times* newspaper on 25 August 1889. The writer did not give his name.

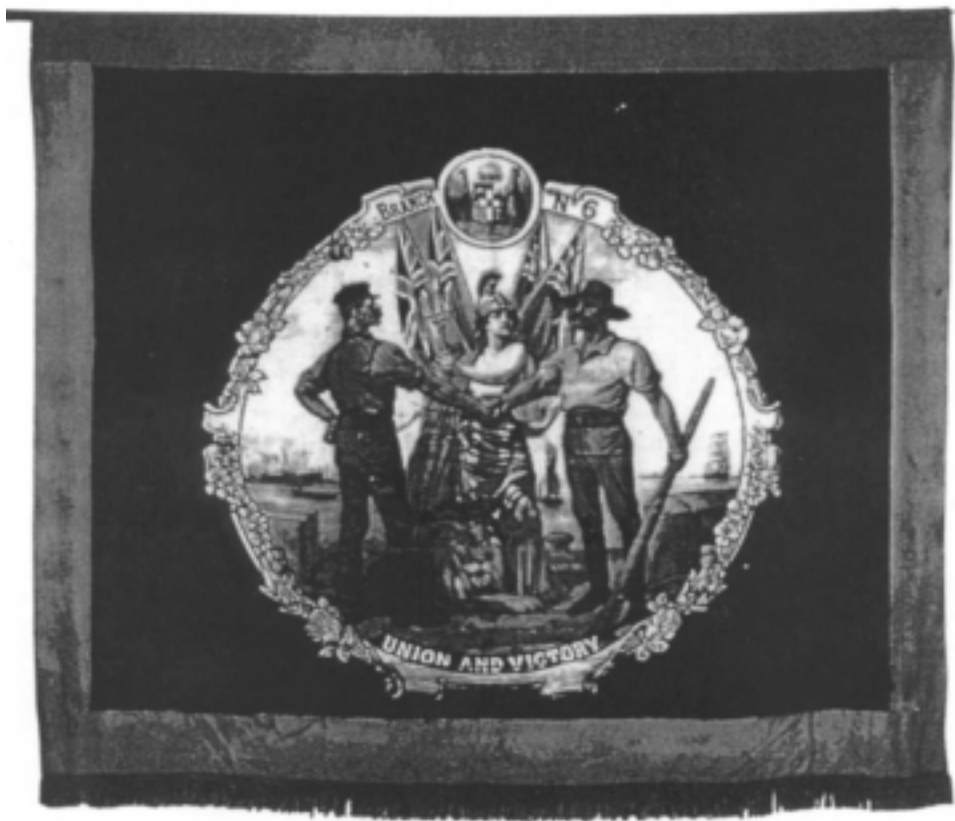
The following facts will account for so many men leaving their work. They have done so in terror, being unable to enter or leave the dock with safety. The papers all speak of the orderly conduct of the strikers. No doubt their processions through the streets are peaceable, but let the newspaper reporters come down to the dock gates. They will see terrified men seeking to get out of the dock with safety and finding a mob at every gate.

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**Source G:** A newspaper illustration published during the strike. It shows Burns speaking to a huge public meeting of strikers.



**Source H:** Part of the banner of the Dockers' Union, formed in 1889.



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**Source I** Accounts showing the money received by the Dockers' Strike Fund, August-September 1889. The amounts are in pounds.

From the public by letter and street collections	11,732
From British Trades Unions	4,234
From France	6
From Belgium	21
From Berlin	51
From the USA	29
From Australia	30,423

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**Source J:** From *The Great Dock Strike*, by Terry McCarthy, 1988.

Ben Tillett quickly became a leader in the dock strike. He was an excellent organiser and he was essential to the formation of the Dockers' Union. He was a powerful figure inside the new trades union movement and the Labour party. John Burns was also a leading figure in the dispute. I feel that later writers have not given John Burns enough credit for his part in the strike.

Descriptions of the strike at the time show that Burns was a very important figure. His physical presence was often needed to save the strike becoming violent.

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**Source K:** From Ben Tillett's book, *Memories and Reflections*, published in 1931.

John Burns did not believe it was possible to form a Dockers' Union. He smiled at our efforts. He volunteered his service, however, when the strike was well under way. He lent us his great voice and colourful personality. He had the qualities of a born showman. He did wonderful things on Tower Hill and other meeting places. He brought humour and good temper into the press conferences every day. Burns advertised our strike as nobody else could have done. John Burns did much for the workers and the workers did much for John.

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**END**