

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A972/22

HISTORY B (MODERN WORLD)

British Depth Study, 1939–1975

SOURCE BOOKLET

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2011: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**8 page answer booklet
(sent with general stationery)**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Question booklet

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HOW FAR DID BRITISH SOCIETY CHANGE, 1939–1975?

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1950 the majority of British people had a very traditional view of the role of women in society. However, in the 1960s and early 1970s women gained more opportunities in work and education. The government passed laws which tried to make sure they were treated equally in work and in many other areas of life. Did this mean that there was a real change in attitudes towards women during this period?

SOURCE A



We beat 'em, Mum – we beat 'em by 3 goals!

Jimmy came racing into the room. “We beat them,” he cried. “I never thought we would. Gosh, I’m hungry now!”

“I’m going to make a fresh pot of tea, so don’t tell a thing while I am out of the room,” said Mum. What a blessing she’d made an extra lot of Jimmy’s favourite ham sandwiches. What a blessing she had bought plenty of fresh Sunblest bread.

Sunblest bread is good bread

fresh to the last slice



An advertisement published in 1953. It shows a boy in muddy football kit who has just come into a room. His parents have turned round to look at him. Father is seated at the table holding a pipe and newspaper. Mother is standing holding a tray with a teapot on it. In the foreground a girl in school uniform is seated on a sofa with books and a ruler.

SOURCE B



For the benefit of old fashioned types that still cling to the belief that women are the weaker sex, let's introduce Ivy Wiggans, an attractive young housewife who'll soon put an end to that nonsense. Ivy makes her living breaking up old boats along the River Thames and selling the scrap metal.

A still image and commentary from a short film called 'Girl Barge Smasher'. The film was broadcast in 1958. The picture shows a young woman wearing trousers, a jumper and Wellington boots. She is carrying a large lump of scrap. In the foreground there are gas bottles and metal scrap. To the left is a barge. Behind her is a wharf wall. Men are standing on the top looking down at her.

SOURCE C

We found that a substantial number of girls in school were interested in training for jobs that women would not normally do – heavy work like building or the motor industry. They were also interested in science and technology. But they found it difficult to get useful information and met discouragement wherever they went.

The biggest obstacle to women is that in obvious and not so obvious ways a poisonous atmosphere is created around them. This atmosphere makes it appear strange or comical for women to use their abilities to the full. They are told that they are fit only for the home.

From a report called ‘Careers for Women in Industry’ by Nancy Seear in 1962. The author was a campaigner for women’s rights and later became an MP.

SOURCE D

When your daughter goes to work for the first time, she will find it exciting. She will have her own money to spend. She will have crowds of new friends.

Maybe she won't care what job she does, until the gloss wears off. She may get married and have a family and it's only when she thinks about working again that she'll feel let down, going back to unskilled work.

But if she gets help to prepare for a satisfying job now, then later on she'll have a career to go on with. This might mean staying on at school to get qualifications or going on to college. Make sure your daughter sees her careers teacher at school and the local careers officer.

A government information leaflet published in 1969.

SOURCE E

It is hard to imagine just how different the world was for women before the 1960s. When my mum got married she had to leave her job in a bank. This was not unusual. Without a man's guarantee it was difficult for a woman to get a loan to buy a house or car. Married women were like slaves. Women did not even have control of their own bodies.

My mum was part of the radical political movements of the 1960s which blew apart this repressive and stifled world. The gains women made changed the attitudes of the whole of society. They also changed the lives of millions of women in ways that still help women like me today.

From an article on a feminist website, published in 2008.

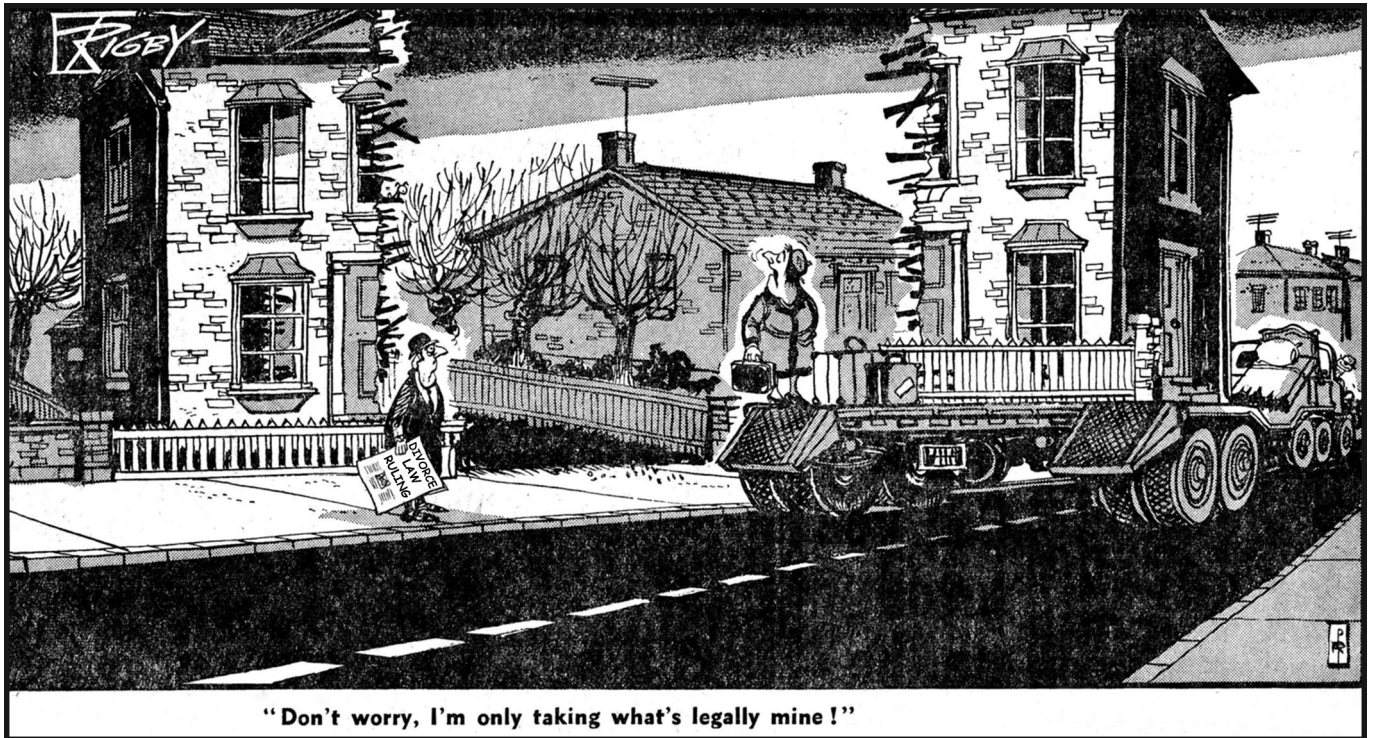
SOURCE F

WOMEN STILL UNEQUAL

As a writer for this newspaper and then as an MP I have long campaigned against discrimination against women. We have made advances but we have a long way to go. According to a recent government report, discrimination against women is deeply rooted in the life of the country. Prejudice is found in all levels of industry – management, trade unions and workers. In medicine and other professions, it is a scandal how few women have risen to the top jobs. We have a pathetic number of women MPs. Everywhere women are told directly or indirectly, ‘Go back to the home!’

From an article by a woman MP published in a newspaper in 1970.

SOURCE G



A cartoon published in a British newspaper in February 1973. Below the cartoon it says ‘Don’t worry, I’m only taking what’s legally mine!’ A woman is shown shouting over to a man whilst she is standing on the back of a lorry. The woman has several suitcases and also on the back of the lorry is half a house and fence. The man is standing on the pavement in front of the other half of the house and fence. He is carrying a newspaper which says, ‘Divorce Law ruling’.

SOURCE H

By having smaller families, expanding into the workforce and asserting their equal status with men, women participated in British national life as never before. A girl of sixteen in 1970 was far more likely to remain in education than a similar sixteen-year-old in 1956. She was more likely to pursue her own interests for as long as she liked, to marry when and whom she wanted, to have children when and if she wanted, and, above all, to choose whether she remained at home as a housewife or followed her own career. These were not small advances, and they had a major effect on the way men saw women and women saw themselves. If we are looking for a genuine revolution in the sixties, then perhaps this was it.

From a history book published in 2006.



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