

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

General Certificate of Secondary Education

HISTORY C (BRITISH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC)

1936/2

PAPER 2 (Public Health and Housing)

Thursday

15 JUNE 2006

Morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional material:

8-page answer booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number on the answer booklet.
- Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the answer booklet.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what to do before you start your answer.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer in the box on the front of the answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part-question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **50**.

This question paper consists of 8 printed pages and 2 blank pages.

FOLD OUT THIS PAGE

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.

In answering the questions, you will need to use your knowledge of the topic to interpret and evaluate the sources. When you are asked to use specific sources you must do so, but you may also use any of the other sources if they are relevant.

Answer ALL the questions.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from this source about public health problems at the time? Use the source to explain your answer. [5]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How similar are these two sources? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

3 Study Sources D and E.

Both of these sources are about improvements in public health. Which source is the more reliable? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

4 Study Source F.

How useful is this source as evidence of better public health for the poorer classes? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

5 Study Source G.

Are you surprised that this cartoon was published in 1858? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [9]

6 Study **all** the sources.

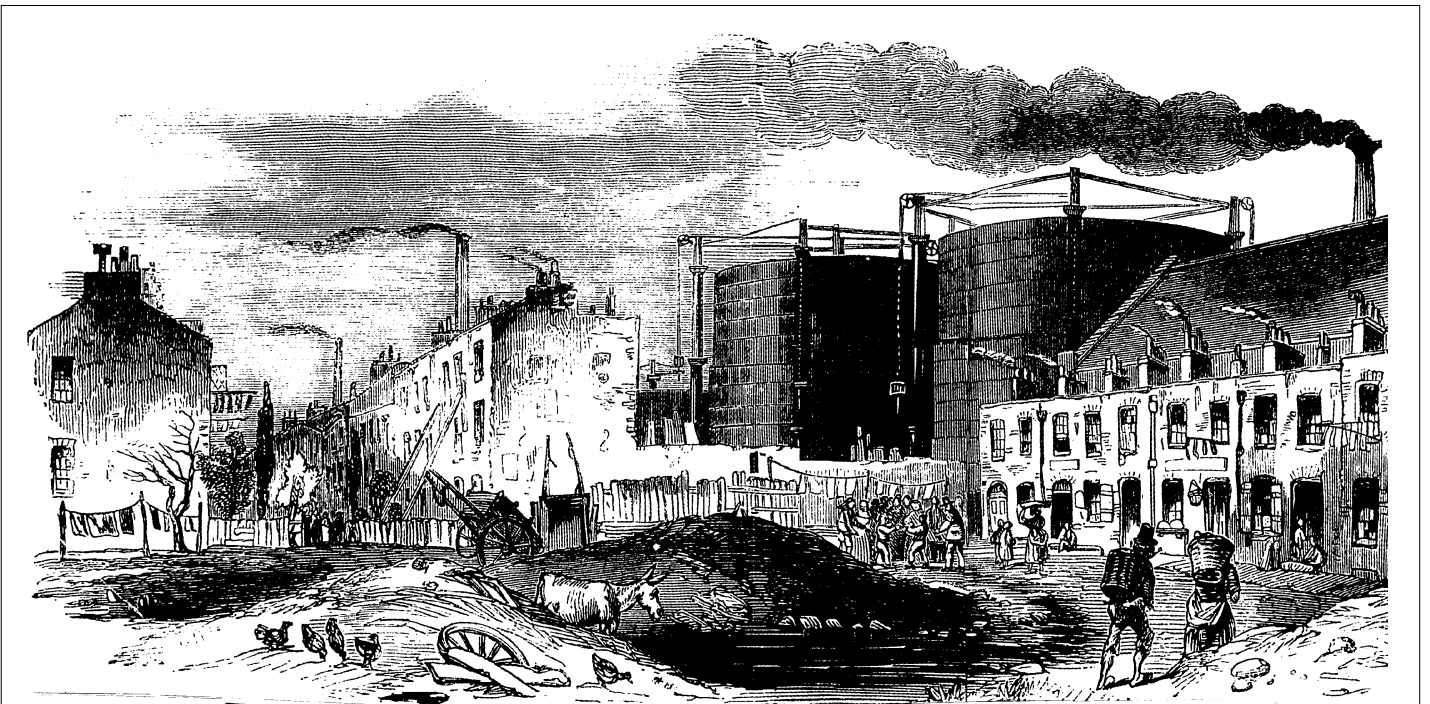
How far do these sources prove that the Public Health Act of 1848 was effective? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. [12]

HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT OF 1848?

Background Information

In the early nineteenth century as industry grew so did the size and number of towns. This sudden growth led to many public health problems including overcrowding, a lack of fresh water and inadequate sewerage systems. Some action was urgently needed. Edwin Chadwick was the driving force behind public health reform and he published a report in 1842 about the living conditions of the poor. A cholera outbreak in 1848 led to the government passing the 1848 Public Health Act. How effective was this Act?

SOURCE A



An illustration of a London street in the 1840s.

SOURCE B

The council put forward a plan for sewers to be built in every street, and for the main sewer to carry waste away from the river and the town. I listened to a six-hour debate about this important proposal but many speakers knew very little about the matter. Most of them were concerned only with cutting costs for the benefit of the ratepayers, and gave little thought to health issues. Their plan was to discharge waste into the river, which would continue the problem of pollution. This plan will cost less but will not improve public health.

James Smith describes the discussions about public health matters in his Report on the Condition of the Town of Leeds, 1844.

SOURCE C

The sewers favoured by the Board of Health are made of glazed earthenware. They cost only 9p a foot [30 cms] to lay as opposed to 55p for the older type of brick sewer. They do a better job, for as long as there is a good supply of water to rinse them out, they are self-cleansing. In 1848 there were 100 miles of sewer pipe in use. Today there are 2600 miles.

From a report written by Edwin Chadwick for the Board of Health, 1854.

SOURCE D

Water has been introduced into our streets together with new sewers and drains and these are operating effectively. Cesspools have been eliminated and all refuse removed from our streets. When epidemic diseases appear they cannot get a hold in the places where they formerly lingered. An example of the effectiveness of the changes is that the death-rate has fallen from 68 to 23 per thousand.

From the Annual Report of the Medical Officer for Darlington Local Board of Health, 1855.

SOURCE E

The Board of Health has fallen. We prefer to take our chance with cholera than be bullied into health. Everywhere the Board's inspectors were bullying, insulting and expensive. There is nothing a man hates so much as being cleaned against his will, or having his floors swept, his walls whitewashed or his pet dung heap cleared away. It is a fact that many people have died from a good washing, but Mr. Chadwick thought otherwise. The entire country was scrubbed and rubbed until it hurt.

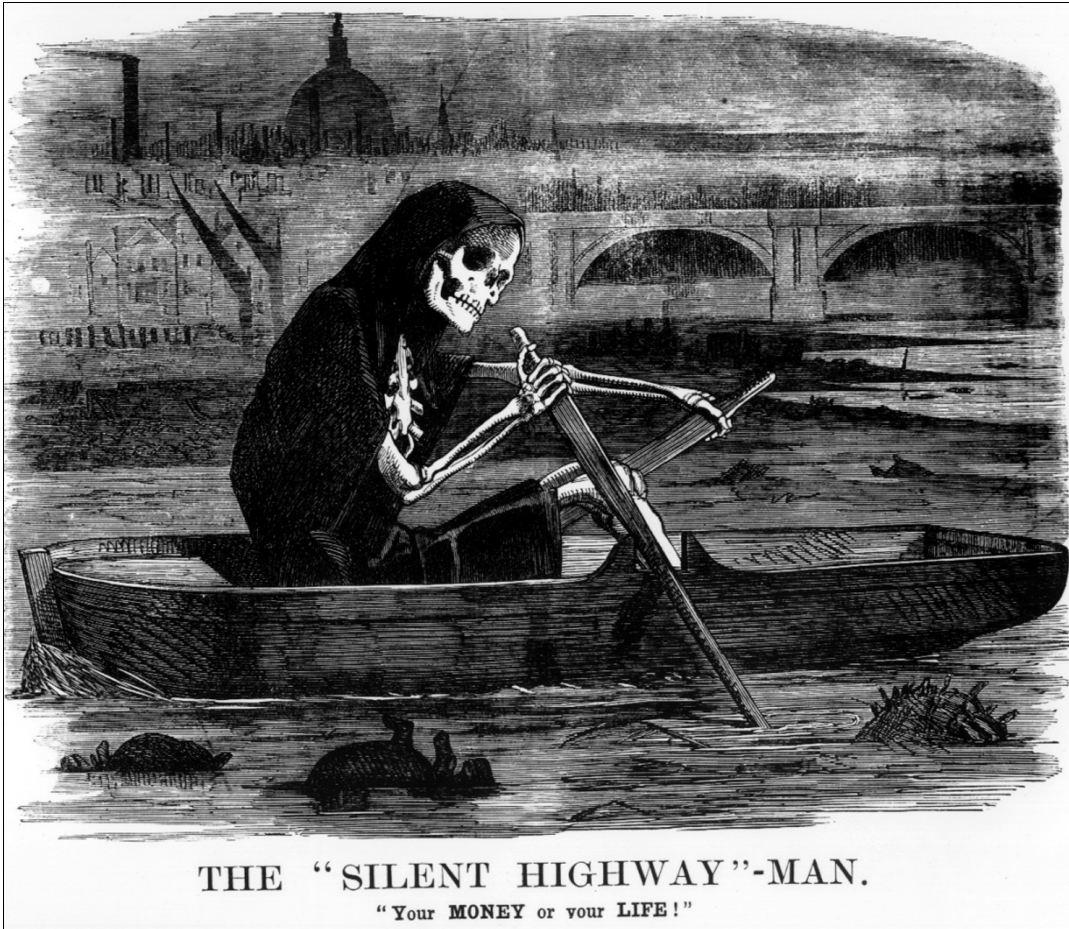
From an article in The Times expressing the views of the newspaper, 1854.

SOURCE F

These waterworks are now nearly finished. There will be eight reservoirs to provide drinking water to the inhabitants of Manchester. The cost of the water supply is an average of one and a half pence per week per house. The work done in some of the houses of the poorer classes includes the building of a water main and putting in a sink and water closet.

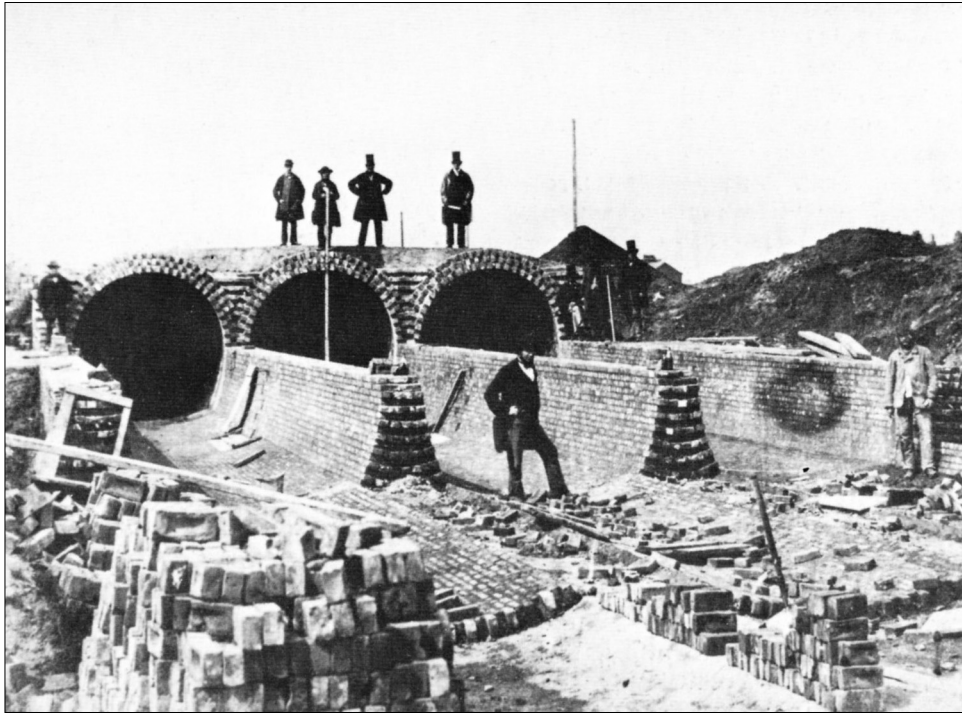
From an official report about Manchester written in 1852.

SOURCE G



A cartoon published in London in 1858. It shows the River Thames.

SOURCE H



Sewers being built in London, 1862.

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