

A-level HISTORY

Component 1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964

Thursday 23 May 2024 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1G.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

As a result of the wartime experience and the unity of the Churchill coalition, the leaders of both the Labour and Conservative parties came to adopt roughly similar attitudes towards the post-war economy, embracing the mixed economy and full employment. This consensus represented a sort of halfway house between socialism and private enterprise, and showed both Labour and the Conservatives moving towards the middle ground of politics. In 1947, Sir Stafford Cripps stated that 'the Budget is the most important instrument for influencing economic policy'. The situation was no different after 1951, when the general tone of Conservative economic policy was set by Butler, who was also influenced by Keynes' ideas. In their basic commitment to full employment, the mixed economy and an active government role in preventing economic recession, one can detect a fundamental consensus, which was continued under Macmillan. The consensus worked well: unemployment was below 3% during the whole period 1945–64.

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Adapted from P Adelman, Britain: Domestic Politics 1939–64, 1994

Extract B

The new Labour administration of 1945 had a clear idea of its objectives. The government embarked on a major extension of state intervention in the form of nationalisation of key industries. This element of socialist economic planning proved to be a success in many ways. The government was able to boost exports, restrain inflation and maintain full employment – achievements which eluded all subsequent governments. By contrast, in the 1950s and early 1960s, the Conservatives, anxious to keep on the right side of public opinion, promoted consumerism by relaxing credit and lowering taxes. However, annual rates of economic growth were well behind those of other western countries. The problem lay in the misuse of Keynesian methods by a succession of Conservative chancellors for political purposes. The first guilty politician in this series was RA Butler, whose 1955 pre-election giveaway boosted consumer spending, stimulated inflation and weakened the balance of payments. After the election the economy had to be dampened down – the start of what was to be a damaging stop/go pattern.

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Adapted from M Pugh, State and Society, 2008

Extract C

Post-war governments had no idea of the complete rebuilding of the national transport system or the massive modernisation of industry that was needed. Major government spending was already being directed elsewhere – into housing, into the welfare state, into ways to maintain full employment. Yet building a new society was not the only wartime fantasy to distract the British from a clear vision of their true post-war priorities. Their political leaders still took it for granted that Britain stood in the first rank of nation states, and simply could not accept that British power had vanished as a result of the Second World War. Instead, they were resolved to restore Britain's traditional world role. The pursuit of this delusion in the next quarter of a century was to cost Britain in defence expenditure up to twice as much of the national income as spent by her European industrial competitors. This defence expenditure was a dead weight on Britain's sluggish economy and on her fragile balance of payments.

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Adapted from C Barnett, *The Audit of War*, 1986

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to British economic policy in the years 1945 to 1964.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'In the years 1851 to 1873, the quality of life of the working classes improved significantly.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

To what extent was the emergence of the Labour Party by 1906 due to the influence of trade unionism?

[25 marks]

0 4

'Throughout the years 1912 to 1939, British governments damaged the stability of Ireland.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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