

A-level HISTORY

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

Wednesday 6 June 2018 Afternoon 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Baldwin impressed his character firmly on the country and, in large part, reflected the national character of those times. The position he created for himself continued until his retirement in 1937; and, though after 1929 he was only Prime Minister for two years (1935–37), he was the chief support to MacDonald in the National government from 1931 to 1935. Baldwin's strength came partly from the fact that he was not an out-and-out Conservative, but a moderate, representing himself as a man of common sense, without cunning or guile, a countryman puffing slowly on his pipe. He seemed to represent Old England, and his speeches, reflecting on love of country and of countryside, underlined this. People trusted him because he appeared to be not a politician, but the plain man in politics. In spite of appearances, however, he proved himself the ablest politician of his day, and in a crisis fully the master of events.

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Adapted from C L Mowat, *Britain Between the Wars*, 1968**Extract B**

A central feature of popular politics between the wars was the emergence of social class as the main factor in political allegiance. In this way the 1920s were an instrumental phase in severing the Liberal Party from its traditional working-class base. In this process the significance of the Labour government of 1924 cannot be overestimated; it made the Liberals redundant at a stroke. This working-class realignment was a cause of the collaboration of middle-class Liberals with Conservatives in anti-socialist pacts and turned many Liberals into a Conservative force in the long-run. The more right-wing and traditionalist Liberals withdrew into the Conservative camp in greater numbers from 1924. The weakening of the traditional Liberal constituency culminated in 1931–35 when the Liberal MPs – apart from Lloyd George and his family – were absorbed into the National government, in the case of the Simonites on a permanent basis. The National governments of 1931 to 1940 represented the triumph of Conservatism.

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Adapted from M Pugh, *The Making of Modern British Politics 1867–1939*, 1982

Extract C

The success of the Conservatives in the interwar years was largely due to the weaknesses of the Labour party. In 1924, the first Labour government was reliant on Liberal backing; however, in September, the Liberals refused to support MacDonald who, on his defeat in the House, asked for a dissolution. The publication of the Zinoviev letter contributed to the Conservatives' victory in the subsequent election; but there were other causes, including MacDonald's evasiveness and the wild utterances of some of his supporters. The 1924 election was a setback for Labour, and the Conservatives won a conclusive victory. In 1931, the failure of the second Labour government to produce an intelligible policy on unemployment, together with the gathering economic storm, swept the Conservatives back into power. Socialism was now wholly discredited and the general election crushed Labour almost out of existence. The election of 1935 was another Conservative triumph as the Labour party still suffered from the stigma of incapacity to govern.

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Adapted from R Blake, *The Conservative Party from Peel to Thatcher*, 1985

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the reasons for the dominance of the Conservatives in the interwar years.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent was Britain's economic growth in the years 1851 to 1873 due to technological progress?
[25 marks]

0 3 How effective were trade unions in promoting the interests of the working classes in the years 1888 to 1914?
[25 marks]

0 4 'In the years 1945 to 1964, the Conservatives had strong, effective leaders; whereas Labour's leaders were weak and ineffective.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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