



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## History

## HIS2S

### Unit 2S Liberal Democracies: Power to the People?

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2S.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

#### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Adapted from the working class newspaper 'Poor Man's Guardian', 27 October 1832.

The Whigs knew that the old electoral system could not last in this new age. They wanted to establish another as like it as possible and to keep their places. Therefore, they framed the Bill in the hope of increasing the influence of the feudal aristocrats and yeomanry of the counties with a large reinforcement of the middle classes. The Bill was, in effect, an invitation to the traders of the newly-enfranchised towns to join the landowners of the counties, and create a common cause with them. This would be in order to keep down the ordinary people and thereby quell the rising spirit of democracy in England. The Tories did not even support this limited reform because they know that once the principle of Reform is started, the millions will go on to demand much more change. 5  
10

**Source B** Adapted from the 'Leeds Mercury', 9 June 1832. This newspaper was edited by Edward Baines, a prominent businessman.

The only way in which we can achieve further change is through a reformed Parliament. The victory of the people is now secured. The Royal Assent and the great Seal of State have been attached to a new chapter of the people's rights by the Reform Act. The old system of corruption and abuse could not survive the new times and it has received its death-blow. Our belief is that its effects in liberating the nation from mischievous propaganda and an unjust burden, in stimulating the nation's energies and in prompting its prosperity will be one of the greatest victories for freedom in British history. 5

**Source C** The authors of the Bill were inclined to think that they had gone too far, but it might be argued that the Bill could have been made far more radical without any risk to the institutions of the country. No one, however, foresaw what effect the 1832 Act would have. No one could have predicted the process by which Britain came to be governed by two centrally organised parties. In some ways the reformed House of the 1830s was more oppressive than the old. This reflected a greater confidence, which a broader basis of support provided. However, the Act helped to make the evolution of Britain's political system an orderly process. 5

Adapted from Michael Brock, The Great Reform Act, 1973

0	1
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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the Reform Act of 1832.

[12 marks]

and

0	2
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Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the Reform Act of 1832 in changing the British political system?

[24 marks]

**Either**

**Question 2**

0	3
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Explain why a convention of all the American states was called to meet in Philadelphia in May 1787.

[12 marks]

and

0	4
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'Liberal-democratic ideas were the main influence on the American Constitution.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

**Question 3**

0	5
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Explain why enlightenment ideas were a threat to the Ancien Regime in France.

[12 marks]

and

0	6
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'It was the actions of the Parisian crowd which produced the revolutionary changes of 1789.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source C: Michael Brock, The Great Reform Act, Hutchinson University Library, 1973

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