



GCE AS/A LEVEL – NEW

2100U40-1



S17-2100U40-1

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 4

Politics and Society in Wales and England c. 1900-1939

**Part 1: Politics, Society and the War: Wales and England
c. 1900-1918**

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **both** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on answering each question.

The sources and extracts used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

UNIT 2**DEPTH STUDY 4****Politics and Society in Wales and England c. 1900-1939****Part 1: Politics, Society and the War: Wales and England c. 1900-1918**

Answer both questions.

QUESTION 1

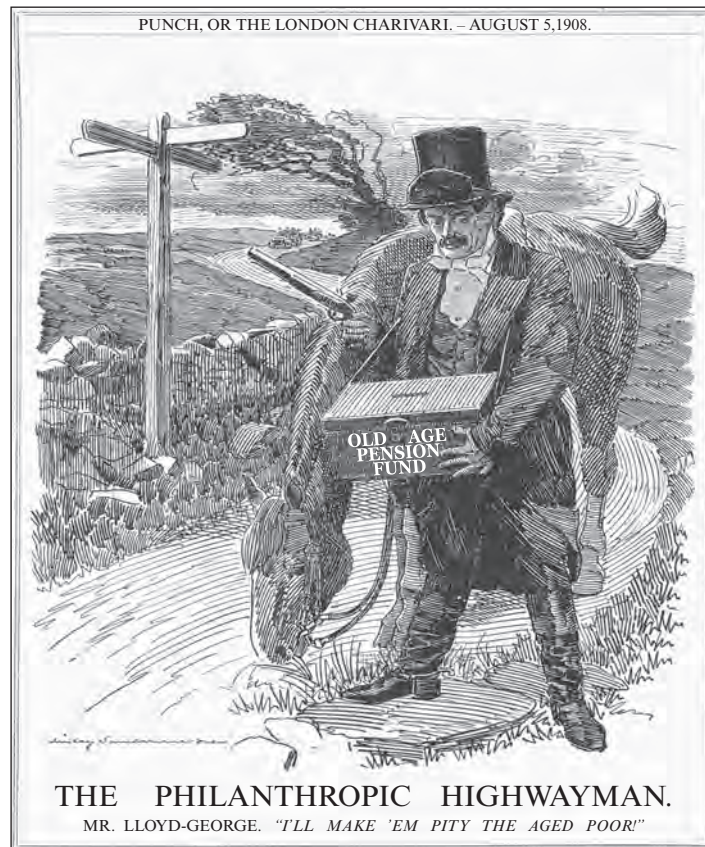
Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

Source A

During his early childhood, a man will live in poverty and this will last until his brothers or sisters begin to earn money and supplement their father's wages. This may raise the family income just above the poverty line. The man may then be able to save a bit of money but when he is married and has children, poverty will again overtake him. This will last until the first child is 14 years old and begins to earn wages. When his children earn, he will live again just above the poverty line only to sink back again into poverty when his children have married and he himself is too old to work. His income will never permit him to save enough money to live upon for more than a very short time.

[Seebhom Rowntree, a social commentator, writing in his social survey of life in York, *Poverty: A Study of Town Life* (1901)]

Source B



[A cartoon from *Punch*, a satirical magazine, referring to Lloyd George's proposal for introducing an Old Age Pensions Act (1908)]

Source C

There are hundreds of thousands of men, women and children in this country now enduring hardships for which the sternest judge would not hold them responsible; hardships entirely due to circumstances over which they have not the slightest control. This, therefore, is a War Budget. It is for raising money to wage implacable warfare against poverty and squalor. I cannot help hoping and believing that before this generation has passed away we shall have advanced a great step towards the good time when poverty and the wretchedness and human degradation which always follow in its camp will be as remote to the people of this country as the wolves which once infested its forests. These problems of the sick, of the infirm, of the men who cannot find the means of earning a livelihood are problems with which it is the business of the state to deal.

[David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his budget speech in the House of Commons (1909)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying social change in Wales and England 1901-1909. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

There is no doubt about the negative impact of the First World War. The cost was staggering at just under £4 million a day. To pay for it, the National Debt had to be increased and a significant amount was raised by taxing the very people who had fought to win it. Income tax rose, as did death duties, and taxes were also imposed on a range of goods. Wage rates fell behind the cost of living and workers had to rely on piece-work or over-time to keep up with price inflation. South Wales miners went on strike in 1915 and there was trouble among engineering workers elsewhere. Days lost to strikes rose from 2.5 million in 1916 to about 6 million in 1918. The Ministry of Reconstruction's efforts in 1917 to improve health provision was inadequate. Despite calls for the enfranchisement of women it was still felt that their place was in the home, just as before the war. In the final reckoning, a whole generation had been lost, around 700,000 members of the armed forces. Few families escaped the sense of loss.

[Derrick Murphy, an academic historian and specialist in modern British history, writing in his general A level text book, *Britain 1914-2000* (2000)]

Interpretation 2

With the passing of time it is clear that the war can be seen as an event that led to a significant improvement in the lives of the civilian population, especially for the worse-off sections of British society. Standards of living improved because of the positive effect of the mobilisation of the industrial population after 1914. The lives of the underpaid and undervalued were transformed as a result of the war because wages and opportunities improved in order to meet the demands of war production. Certainly the role of women in society took a giant leap forward and was never going to be the same again. For the men on the Western Front, the standard of food and care was such that their living conditions were superior to the slums of Britain where many had been brought up, or rather survived.

[David Wright, an academic historian and specialist in the history of the First World War, writing in his short study of the social impact of war, *The Great War: A Useless Slaughter?* (1991)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the impact of the First World War on society. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the First World War had a mainly negative impact on British society? [30]

END OF PAPER