



**GCE AS/A Level**

2100U30-1 – **NEW AS**



**HISTORY – Unit 2**

**DEPTH STUDY 3**

**Reform and Protest in Wales and England c. 1783-1848**

**Part 1: Radicalism and the fight for Parliamentary Reform  
c. 1783-1832**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 25 May 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

### **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 3

## Reform and Protest in Wales and England c. 1783-1848

## Part 1: Radicalism and the fight for Parliamentary Reform c. 1783-1832

Answer **both** questions.

## QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

## Source A

The crowd of 30,000 was a gathering such as had never been seen before in Leeds. Caps of liberty were passed around. Flags bearing inscriptions were seen, one expressing the grand wishes of the radical reformers in the words, *Annual Parliaments, Universal Suffrage and Vote by Ballot*. Resolutions were proposed and agreed that the present cruel and unsocial state of things was the result of an unfair, unjust and wicked system of Parliamentary representation, a system that had passed Corn and Combination laws, levied taxes upon every necessity of life and placed the whole wealth of the country into the hands of the dealers in borough and county influence. Another resolution called for the abolition of the present system of electing members to Parliament and for the franchise to be extended to all persons who contribute taxes to the state.

[A report of a protest meeting held on Hunslet Moor, published in *The Leeds Intelligencer*, a conservative newspaper (20 September 1819)]

## Source B



**DEATH or LIBERTY**

Britannia is shown resisting the attack of radicalism with a sword representing the laws, aided by the lion of loyalty and the support of the rock of religion. The attacker is carrying symbols associated with the French Revolution.

[A cartoon, by George Cruickshank, warning of the dangers of radicalism to Britain, published in a broadsheet in early 1820]

## Source C

I have always been opposed to reform on principle because I was unwilling to open a door which I saw no prospect of closing. Not seeing the necessity for reform and doubting whether the demand for reform is so urgent, I give my conscientious opposition to this bill. It is not founded on the acknowledged principles of the constitution, it does not give security to the prerogatives of the Crown and it does not guarantee the rights and privileges of both Houses of Parliament. It subverts a system of government which has combined security with personal liberty and provided protection to property with a vigour that has never existed in any other age or in any other country in the world.

[Sir Robert Peel, a leading Tory politician, speaking in the House of Commons, opposing the Reform Bill (6 July 1831)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying radicalism and the demand for parliamentary reform in the period 1819-1832. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

There can be little doubt regarding the effectiveness of the Liberal Tory reforms. Liverpool realised the need for change of direction in government policy. His replacement of Sidmouth by Peel as Home Secretary in 1822, the change from Castlereagh to Canning at the Foreign Office, the substitution of Robinson for Vansittart and the entry of Huskisson into the cabinet ushered in a period of “liberal” rule that was to prove very effective. The bright new look of the Liverpool government was not an illusion. It was because the times were changing that the government changed. Not only was the country at last in a genuine state of peace but the presence of new mercantile and industrial elements in society was increasingly recognised. It was here that Liverpool looked for new and more enlightened support and the word “liberal” was applied to members of his ministry and their meaningful reforms.

[Asa Briggs, an academic historian specialising in the history of nineteenth century Britain, writing in his textbook, *The Age of Improvement 1783-1867* (1959)]

**Interpretation 2**

Liberal Toryism was not a new brand of reforming and effective Toryism. Liverpool simply lacked the independence and intellectual vision to strike out in a meaningful direction. There was no government conversion in 1822. The new men were only “new” in terms of seniority not policy. Liberal Toryism was more about small improvements rather than being genuinely effective. Huskisson and Peel were simply better at debate and administration than their predecessors. The new men had the good fortune to operate against a background of prosperity rather than the economic crisis that characterised 1815-1821. No sympathy whatsoever was shown for the franchise demands of middle class and working class radicals outside Parliament. The simple model of meaningful and effective “liberal” Toryism is wholly wrong.

[Eric Evans, an academic historian specialising in eighteenth and nineteenth century social and political history, writing in his textbook, *Britain before the Reform Act: Politics and Society 1815-1832* (1989)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the Liberal Tory reforms. 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 Liberal Tory reforms were meaningful and effective?

[30]

**END OF PAPER**