



GCE AS/A Level

2100U40-1 – **NEW AS**



HISTORY – 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**

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 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

There is no doubt that the Boer War has resulted in great expenditure of British public money upon ships, guns, military and naval equipment and stores and to what end? The poor in Britain remain poor and the country has neither the means nor the desire to help while the rich grow richer upon the spoils of war. If the expenditure of war were subject to close analysis, most of it would be traced directly into the tills of certain big firms engaged in building warships and transport, equipping and manning them, manufacturing guns, rifles, ammunition and motor vehicles of every kind. The upper classes benefit while the poor and the destitute are ignored and allowed to perish in squalor and indignity while the soldiers, weak in body and stature, fighting their own impoverished state and ill-health, die at the altar of capitalism.

[J.A. Hobson, a reporter and correspondent in South Africa, reporting on the effects of the Boer War for the left-wing newspaper, the *Manchester Guardian* (1901)]

Source B

Much as I would like to talk about the need for more men, that is not the point of my special appeal today. We stand more in need of equipment than we do of men. We need men, but we need arms more than men, and the delay in producing them is full of peril for this country. Output is everything in this war. Our workmen are putting every ounce of strength into urgent work for their country, loyally and patriotically. Most of our workers belong to a class we can depend upon. Women, miners and munition workers are doing their very best and we must call upon them to continue their heroic efforts in order for us to prevail in this great and just war in which we find ourselves.

[David Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech in the House of Commons (January 1915)]

Source C

Women do not feel that their claim to the vote rests upon any services given to the state during the war. Yes, we have done plenty: built weapons, supplied munitions and worked the land tirelessly to name but a few. We have put differences aside and we have put protest on hold in order to serve our country as proud patriots. No, we women regard the vote as a right for those among us who have borne the burden of citizenship in such measure as would, had they been men, have entitled them to be voters. Yet it is clear that the part played by women since the war began has profoundly affected public opinion in regard to their claims to be treated equally. It has brought sight to eyes that were blind and hearing to ears that were deaf.

[Winifred Tennant, a Suffragist and Liberal campaigner, writing in a letter to the Welsh nationalist paper, *The Welsh Outlook* (1916)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the effects of war on the people of Wales and England 1901-1916. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

The Liberal social reforms of 1906-1914 were not really designed to alleviate the issues connected with poverty. Social reform was more about gaining political advantage or pleasing the upper classes who needed to maximise profit in order to compete in a world economy. Pressure from the working class was one of the main reasons for the origins of social reform, but it was not followed through with any underlying conviction to bring about radical change to improve lives blighted by poverty. Social reform under the Liberals was partial and had little real impact because the underlying theme was to attract electoral popularity and to prevent workers turning towards more extreme parties. The reforms were not intended to tackle the evils of society as indicated by social commentators, neither were they introduced because of the problems highlighted by the Boer War campaign.

[J.R. Hay, an historian and specialist in the history of the Liberal party, writing in a specialist study, *The Origins of Liberal Welfare Reforms 1906-1914* (1978)]

Interpretation 2

The reforms of the period 1906-1914 showed that there was a new radical way of thinking about poverty which was widely held by Liberal party members and other political parties at the time as well. There were concerns about National Efficiency, the reports of Charles Booth and Seebohm Rowntree had stirred popular opinion about poverty, and unemployment had created a new concern about public health and well-being, all of which had to be solved. Certainly attitudes had begun to soften towards the 'deserving poor', and the Liberals actively introduced a programme designed to attack the causes of poverty which Booth and Rowntree had helped indicate and publicise – family poverty, old age, sickness, death of the breadwinner, low wages and unemployment. The desire to rescue and extensively improve the lives of the poor influenced the Liberal politicians who became aware of the injustice and waste of individual poverty.

[Edward Royle, an historian and specialist in social history, writing in his general history of Britain, *Modern Britain: a social history, 1750-1997* (1997)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the Liberal social reforms of 1906-1914. 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 social reforms of 1906-1914 were largely designed to address the problem of poverty? [30]

END OF PAPER