



GCE AS/A level

1232/05

HISTORY – HY2

UNIT 2

IN-DEPTH STUDY 5

Britain, c. 1929-1939

P.M. THURSDAY, 22 May 2014

1 hour 20 minutes

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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 **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

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

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

UNIT 2**IN-DEPTH STUDY 5****Britain, c. 1929-1939**

Answer either question 1 or question 2.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

Because of decreasing poverty the mortality rate in England and Wales is falling, but it is doing so at a much slower rate in Wales. Among the many reasons given for the difference is the persistence of the pessimistic and fatalistic belief in hereditary causes of disease rather than in social conditions. People delay in seeking health care, and this leads to the loss of early treatment.

[From a report by a Government Committee of Enquiry into the health situation in Wales (September 1937)]

Source B

There has been some progress in Britain, but 30% of the population in the cities have incomes so small that it is beyond their means to live. Almost half the children of working class parents spend the first five years of their lives in poverty and almost a third of them live below the poverty line for ten years or more. In such circumstances, it is little wonder that ill-health is so high.

[Seebohm Rowntree, a social reformer, writing in his second social survey on the social and economic conditions in York (1936)]

Source C

It is the opinion of this newspaper and of Her Majesty's Government that such marches can do no good to the cause which they represent. They are liable to cause unnecessary hardship to those taking part in them and are altogether undesirable in this country. The National Government is doing its very best to resolve the situation and is best placed to do so unhindered by empty gestures.

[From an editorial in *The Times*, a conservative newspaper that supported the government (1936)]

Source D

The National Government did all they could under circumstances that would have confused even modern day politicians. The financial world of the 1930s rumbled on regardless of any acts by any nation and it was only the onset of war that helped to turn the financial tide. The National Government, with little money, did deliver some measures that helped improve the lives of people in the most depressed areas, but asking them to prevent a global depression was asking too much.

[Paul Salway, an historian and specialist in modern British history, writing in an article in an A Level history magazine, *The real politics of the 1930s* (2009)]

Source E

I want a full time wife, whose main interest in life will be her home, her children and her husband. I want a wife to do her duty, to listen to my troubles and to soothe and comfort me. I want a wife whose first and only interest is me and then our home. Is this too much to ask? Is this not the role of women?

[From an anonymous letter, published in the magazine *Woman's Own*, a traditional and conservative publication (1938)]

Source F

[A government propaganda photograph showing Mrs Stanley Baldwin, wife of the Prime Minister, helping to serve food in a soup kitchen (1935)]

- (a) What does the author of Source C mean by the phrase 'such marches can do no good to the cause which they represent'? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How significant were the effects of poor health in Britain in this period? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the National Government did nothing to help people during the Depression? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources A, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

QUESTION 2

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

In 1937, after years of waiting, there came a specific radio service for the people of Wales. By 1939 nearly 75% of families had their own radio set. The cinema competed with radio to entertain people. With a 6d ticket you could escape from the harsh realities of life. By 1939 there were 4,776 cinemas in Britain selling, on average, nearly 23 million tickets each week.

[Roger Turvey, an historian, writing in a GCSE history textbook, *Wales and Britain 1906-1951* (1997)]

Source B

The cinema plays a great part in relieving the monotony of countless lives. At the cost of 6d or so the working woman bored to death by household chores, or a factory worker oppressed by the monotony of his work, can be transplanted, as if by magic carpet, into a completely new world, a world of romance and high adventure.

[Seebohm Rowntree, a social reformer, writing in his second social survey of life in York (1936)]

Source C

When discussing the reasons for forming a National Government, the Prime Minister said that it must be admitted that the proposal went against everything the Labour Party stood for, and yet he was absolutely satisfied that it was necessary if the country was to be saved from disaster. The formation of a government of national unity would allow Britain to face the economic threat with the combined abilities of all parties united in a common cause. This would ensure that saving the country was given priority before all else.

[From official Cabinet records, written by the Cabinet secretary and approved by Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister (19th August 1931)]

Source D

When Ramsay McDonald agreed to form a National Government he did so because he knew that this would allow him to remain as Prime Minister and please bankers and financiers that had become his new friends in London. Saving the country never figured at all in his thinking.

[Stephen Markland, a left-wing historian, writing in an article in the *Revolutionary Socialist Worker* magazine (1968)]

Source E

There is little doubt that the role of women has changed dramatically as a result of the depression and the advancement in technology. The idea of the “little woman” staying at home while the man goes off to work is no longer appropriate. Times are changing and the world is no longer the stomping ground of men alone.

[Mary Bell, a campaigner for women’s issues, writing in a letter published in a local newspaper, *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (1938)]

Source F

At this difficult time, there needs to be a fundamental change if the government is to continue its spending plans to cater for the needs of the unemployed. We cannot continue to fund the lifestyle of some of these people while most decent hard-working people do their utmost to fend for themselves. We must promote a climate of self-help and self-reliance to encourage the unemployed.

[An editorial comment in *The Cambridge Gazette*, a publication supportive of the National Government (1934)]

- (a) What does the author of Source F mean by the phrase ‘At this difficult time, there needs to be a fundamental change’? [8]

In your answer you are advised to discuss the content and authorship of the source and to use your own knowledge.

- (b) How important were new leisure experiences for people in Britain in this period? [16]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

- (c) Do you agree with the interpretation that the National Government was formed in order to save the country from economic disaster? [24]

Explain your answer analysing and evaluating the content and authorship of Sources C and D and using your own knowledge.

- (d) How useful are Sources A, E and F in understanding Britain 1929-1939? [32]

In your answer you are advised to analyse and evaluate the content and authorship of these sources and to use your own knowledge.

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