

A-level HISTORY

Component 1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1G.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

It can appear that self-help and laissez-faire were key principles in Victorian society and government. However, difficulty in maintaining this view emerges when it is considered that industrialisation was transforming society and, as a result, the government was constantly being forced into action as another social issue came to the fore. The philosophical acceptance of laissez-faire was popularised by the famous work entitled, 'Self-Help', published by Samuel Smiles in 1859. Its opening passage makes the message very clear: 'Heaven helps those who help themselves. The spirit of self-help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual'. It would seem, then, that self-help and the rejection of state interference were widely accepted principles. Indeed, before 1870 the scope of government intervention was still limited. After 1870, however, the central direction of social assistance by the government was seen as more and more necessary as awareness of social problems increased. So, however desirable government non-interference was in theory; in practice, state intervention became increasingly inevitable.

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Adapted from E Hopkins, *Industrialisation and Society*, 2000

Extract B

We make a false and misleading distinction if we assume that social policy can be understood without reference to political developments. The origins of social policy become meaningful only within the context of political change. In 1867, the urban workers got the vote and were joined in 1884 by rural workers. No doubt there is a close link between the extension of the franchise and the widening concerns of social policy. Furthermore, debates on the relative merits of the Gladstonian Liberal legislation of 1870–74, and the Disraelian Conservative legislation of 1874–80 were dominated by political loyalties. In part, social policy between 1870 and 1900 was also motivated by a fear of social revolution. Balfour's assertion of 1895 that social policy was the means of avoiding socialism should be noted. Ultimately, the decision to introduce social reform legislation is a political choice, and social policy is placed in its proper context when related to the political system.

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Adapted from D Fraser, *The Evolution of the British Welfare State*, 1973

Extract C

The years between 1870 and 1900 have been called the 'Period of Collectivism'. In this phrase, 'collectivism' has been defined as action by the state to improve conditions for the people, influenced by sensible and moderate democratic pressures for social change from below. In particular, the trade union movement was becoming wedded to the principle of collective bargaining and began campaigning for greater instalments of positive social reform. The larger unions of unskilled men demanded more from the state than just legal protection. The path taken by the British working-class movement contributed significantly to the progress of social reform. It turned its back on Marxism. The British trade union movement had come of age in the period of high prosperity. It accepted the capitalist organisation of industry, and sought merely to gain the best possible advantages for its members from it. British socialism was based on collectivism and, with the unions at its heart, worked for gradual improvement, not revolution.

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Adapted from RC Birch, *The Shaping of the British Welfare State*, 1974

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to social reform legislation in Britain in the years 1870 to 1900.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** To what extent was the Liberal Party weakened by internal divisions in the years 1886 to 1914? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** How far was the creation of the Welfare State, by 1951, a response to the social problems of the 1930s? **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** 'British governments managed the economy effectively in the years 1945 to 1964.'
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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