

A-level HISTORY

Component 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

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 7042/2S.
- 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.

Source A

From recollections on Margaret Thatcher's career by Paddy Ashdown, published in The Guardian, 2013. Ashdown joined the Liberal Party in 1975 and became Liberal Democrat leader in 1989.

I didn't like her politics. I always regarded Margaret Thatcher as a one-man demolition squad. She was a destroyer. However, it was clear that if we on the left had had the same degree of intellectual rigour about our ideas as she had about hers, however much I didn't like most of them, we wouldn't have suffered so badly. I fought against elements of her agenda, including some of her economic liberalisation agenda, but there's no question that she was one of the great prime ministers of our century. She was forceful because of her character, not her intellect. If you don't have courage, all the other qualities you may have – good strategic sense and oratory etc – vanish like the morning dew when you need it. But she had it. Her other quality was of leadership, of the sort that is rare in senior leaders. She tied people to her with genuine bonds of affection because she appeared in the frontline when life was tough and inspired her troops.

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Source B

From the book 'Dancing With Dogma, Britain Under Thatcherism' by Ian Gilmour, 1992. Gilmour served in Thatcher's first cabinet until he was sacked in September 1981.

The circumstances by early 1981 were unprecedented. Never before had a prime minister and a few close associates embarked upon so disastrous an economic experiment while keeping the cabinet at a distance. Mrs Thatcher seldom had any sort of 'collective view' in her mind, or even any apparent desire for one. No doubt the idea smacked too much of the dreaded 'consensus politics'. Since she regarded those Conservatives who believed in consensus politics as traitors, a search for agreement or compromise with them was unthinkable. The normal conventions of cabinet government were, therefore, disregarded – if indeed they ever entered her consciousness – in order to translate her monetarist convictions into government policy. Her dominant characteristic was, and remained, a compulsive need always to have her own way. It placed her most senior colleagues, who were accustomed to dealing with people at least partially amenable to facts and arguments, at a considerable disadvantage, having no idea what to do with a strong, assertive woman.

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Source C

From a private letter written to Margaret Thatcher on 29 December 1981 by Ian Gow, her parliamentary private secretary, 1979–1983. He became a close friend of Thatcher.

It's been quite a year and although the economic clouds should begin to lift slowly, we both know that the most severe political struggles, both within and outside our own party, lie ahead. I want to say some things in this letter, which you would not allow me to say to you directly. The longer I serve you, the greater is my regard and respect. You have been a giant amongst pygmies. Your diagnosis of our national sickness and your prescription for national recovery are both more perceptive and more far-sighted than any of your contemporaries. Whether even your iron resolve will be sufficient we do not know, but while others seek to thwart it, your determination deserves to succeed. Those who are close to you understand that you are fighting a battle as heroic as any we have fought in the past. The plain truth is, you have been the inspiration of the Government and the Conservative Party. I know that you will be as unrelenting in 1982.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'By the early 1960s, affluence had totally reshaped society.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 How effective was James Callaghan as Prime Minister in the years 1976 to 1979?

[25 marks]

0 4 'The Conservative Party was a pro-European party in the years 1983 to 1992.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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