

General Certificate of Education  
January 2007  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



## HISTORY

### Unit 2

**Alternative U: Britain, 1929–1951**

HS2U

Friday 12 January 2007 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS2U.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

### Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate. The legibility of your handwriting and the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be considered.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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- 1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

A statistical table from J STEVENSON, *British Society 1914-1945*, Penguin, 1984, p271 showing rates of regional unemployment in 1932 and 1937 - not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B**

A brief text extract from G ORWELL, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, Penguin edition, 1975 discussing the condition of the unemployed in the 1930s - not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- Source C** The 1930s have been called the black years. Their popular image can be expressed in two phrases: 'mass unemployment' and 'appeasement'. No set of political leaders has ever been judged so harshly as those who led the National Government in the 1930s. Yet, at the same time, most English
- 5 people were enjoying a richer life than any previously known in the history of the world – longer holidays, shorter hours, higher real wages. They had motor cars, cinema, radio sets and electrical appliances. The two sides of life did not join up.

Adapted from AJP TAYLOR, *English History 1914–1945*, 1965

- (a) Use **Source C** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the meaning of 'the National Government' (lines 3 and 4) in the context of British politics in the 1930s. *(3 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about the lives of the working class in the 1930s? *(7 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

'All sections of society throughout Britain suffered during the economic depression of the 1930s.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. *(15 marks)*

**Turn over for the next question**

**EITHER 2** Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

In July 1945, the first general election for 10 years was fought. The Conservatives were confident of winning. Normal party politics had been suspended during the war and so they expected to resume their previous political domination.

Adapted from R PEARCE, *Contemporary Britain 1914–1979*, 2003

- (a) Comment on ‘normal party politics had been suspended’ (lines 2 and 3) in the context of the years 1940 to 1945. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why the Conservatives dominated politics during the years 1931 to 1940. (7 marks)
- (c) Was Conservative over-confidence the most important factor in explaining Labour’s electoral victory in 1945? Explain your answer. (15 marks)

**OR 3** Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

In 1947 the economic situation was worsening. The Chancellor, Dalton, believed that the American loan negotiated in 1946 would be exhausted by 1948. At the insistence of the Treasury the British government warned Washington that they would have to end their help to Greece and Turkey.

Adapted from CJ BARTLETT, *A History of Post-war Britain*, 1977

- (a) Comment on ‘the American loan’ (line 2) in the context of Britain’s financial position in 1946. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Britain’s economic situation worsened in 1947. (7 marks)
- (c) Was Britain’s economic weakness the most important factor in explaining her close relationship with the United States in the years 1945 to 1951? Explain your answer. (15 marks)

## END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 2: R PEARCE, *Contemporary Britain 1914–1979*, Pearson Education Limited, 2003.

Question 3: CJ BARTLETT, *A History of Post-war Britain*, Pearson Education Limited, 1977.

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