

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY
Unit 2
Alternative U: Britain, 1929–1951

HS2U

Wednesday 6 June 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 good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

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

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

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

Source A In August 1945 President Truman abruptly ended Lend-Lease. This made it necessary to negotiate another loan. Another crisis came in 1947 when Labour was obliged under the terms of the American loan to make the Pound freely convertible. It proved disastrous. However, Marshall Aid and Cripps's policies meant that by 1949 exports had risen above their 1938 level. Unfortunately the Korean War provoked another economic crisis in 1951.

Adapted from WO SIMPSON, *Changing Horizons: Britain 1914–80*, 1986

Source B Adapted from advice given to the new Labour government in 1945 by Lord Keynes, a leading economist

Three sources of financial assistance made it possible for us to mobilise our economy for war. They were first, Lend-Lease from the United States; second, Mutual Aid from Canada; third, loans from other members of the Commonwealth. However, without the following three essential conditions we now have no hope of escaping a financial disaster. These conditions are that we must expand our exports, cut our overseas spending and gain substantial aid from the United States.

Source C In February 1947 the Labour Cabinet made some important decisions. British aid to Greece and Turkey would end in March. The Palestine problem would be handed over to the United Nations. Britain would leave India.

Not only did the United States pick up the bill in Greece and Turkey, it provided the Marshall Plan and in 1949 it made an unprecedented commitment to the defence of Western Europe in the North Atlantic Treaty. However, these changes also reflected Ernest Bevin's efforts to build on the wartime relationship between Britain and America. Bevin's speed in accepting Marshall Aid and shaping the North Atlantic Treaty were of enormous significance in drawing the United States into permanent European commitments.

Bevin accepted the need to confront Soviet expansion in Europe and insisted that Britain build its own atomic bomb. Most Labour leaders believed that Britain should still play a major world role.

Adapted from K BURK (ed.), *The British Isles since 1945*, 2003

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

Explain briefly what is meant by 'Lend-Lease' (line 1) in the context of Britain's financial problems in 1945. *(3 marks)*

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

Explain how useful **Source B** is as evidence about Britain's financial problems resulting from the Second World War. *(7 marks)*

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

'The main reason for the continued position of Britain as a World Power after the Second World War was assistance from the United States of America.'
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.

The traumatic events of 1931 had a profound effect on the Labour Party and to a large extent shaped its behaviour in the 1930s. By 1935, however, the Labour Party was beginning to recover.

Adapted from P ADELMAN, *British Politics in the 1930s and 1940s*, 1987

- (a) Comment on 'events of 1931' in the context of the end of the second Labour government. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why the Labour Party was 'beginning to recover' by 1935. (7 marks)
- (c) Was Britain's experience of coalition government between 1940 and 1945 the most important factor in explaining why Labour won the general election in 1945? Explain your answer. (15 marks)

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

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- (a) Comment on 'means test' in the context of relief for the unemployed in the early 1930s. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why there was a high level of unemployment in Britain throughout the 1930s. (7 marks)
- (c) Explain the importance of the policies of the National Government, in relation to other factors, in enabling Britain to overcome the problems associated with mass unemployment in the 1930s. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1 Source B: The Atlee Government 1945–1951, ed. K JEFFERYS, 1992. Reproduced by permission of HMSO.

Question 1 Source C: 'Britain and the World' by DAVID REYNOLDS, pp. 159–161 from *The British Isles since 1945*, edited by K BURK, 2003. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Question 2: P ADELMAN, *British Politics in the 1930s and 1940s*, Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Question 3: D CHILDS, *Britain since 1945: A Political History*, p 32, Routledge, 1992. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Group.

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