

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY

Unit 2

Alternative U: Britain, 1929–1951

HS2U

Monday 2 June 2008 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 black ink or black 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 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

A brief text extract adapted from D DIMBLEBY and D REYNOLDS, *An Ocean Apart*, 1988, suggesting that Britain's plans, of 1945, to remain powerful through building a strong, guiding relationship with the US did not come to fruition and instead they were left alone to face the Soviets until the US offered economic aid to Europe in 1947-48. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Source B

From a report sent to Washington by the American ambassador in Britain in August 1948 commenting on Anglo-American relations in the years 1947 to 1948

- Anglo-American unity is today more firmly established than ever before in peacetime. But Britain has never before been in a position where her national security and economic fate are so completely dependent on another country. Almost every day brings new evidence of her weakness and dependence on the
- 5 USA. This is bitter medicine for a country accustomed to full control of her national destiny to have to swallow.

Source C

A brief text extract adapted from K O MORGAN, *The People's Peace*, 1990, which states that in 1951, despite many difficulties, Britain was still a major world power with a great influence in Europe, a strong Commonwealth and Empire, authority in the Middle East and growing military strength. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

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

Explain briefly what was meant by 'an aid programme for economic recovery' (lines 6 and 7) in the context of relations between Britain and the United States in 1948. (3 marks)

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

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about Britain's relationship with the United States in the years 1947 to 1948? (7 marks)

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

'Despite its economic problems, Britain was successful in maintaining its role as a major power in the years 1945 to 1951.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.

EITHER

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

A brief text extract adapted from K LAYBOURN, *Britain on the Breadline*, 1990, stating that, other than in matters relating to defence, government intervention in the economy between 1929 and 1939 was minimal and therefore unemployment was left to run its course. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Comment on 'spending on rearmament' (line 3) in the context of Britain in the years 1935 to 1939. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why unemployment levels were high in the years 1929 to 1939. *(7 marks)*
- (c) Explain the importance of government economic policies, in relation to other factors, in reducing unemployment by the end of the 1930s. *(15 marks)*

OR

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

A brief text extract adapted from K O MORGAN, *Twentieth Century Britain*, 2000, suggesting that it was the feelings aroused by the equality imposed by wartime controls that encouraged the public to move their support to the Labour Party. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Comment on 'total war' (line 1) in the context of Britain in the years 1940 to 1945. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why the Conservative Party dominated governments in the years 1931 to 1940. *(7 marks)*
- (c) Was the electorate's desire for social change the most important factor in explaining Labour's victory in the 1945 general election?
Explain your answer. *(15 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source C: K O MORGAN, *The People's Peace*, Oxford University Press, 1990. By permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

Question 2: K LAYBOURN, *Britain on the Breadline*, Sutton Publishing, 1990

Question 3: K O MORGAN, *Twentieth Century Britain*, Oxford University Press, 2000. By permission of Oxford University Press