

A-level HISTORY

Component 2M Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

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 7042/2M.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the minutes taken at a meeting of the Cabinet on Sunday 23 August 1931.

The Prime Minister informed the Cabinet that as far as he was concerned, the country was suffering from lack of confidence abroad. There was, as yet, no panic at home but he warned of the calamitous nature of the consequences which would immediately follow from a financial panic and a flight from the pound.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that it must be admitted that the proposals represented the negation of everything that the Labour Party stood for, and yet he was absolutely satisfied that it was in the national interest to implement the 10 per cent reduction in Unemployment Insurance benefit. He pointed out that, if on this question there were any important resignations, the Government as a whole would have to resign. 5

Each member of the Cabinet then expressed his views on the question of the proposed reduction to Unemployment Insurance benefit. In the course of these expressions of view, indications were given that the adoption of this cut would involve the resignation of certain Ministers from the Government. 10

Source B

From the 'Joint Manifesto' published by the TUC, the National Executive of the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Labour Party, 28 August 1931.

A new Coalition Government has been formed. It is a Government of persons acting without authority from the people. It is determined to attack the standard of living of the workers in order to meet a situation caused by a policy pursued by private banking interests. It seeks to enforce a complete change in national policy, primarily because financial interests have decided that this country is setting a bad example to other countries in taxing the rich to provide for the necessities of the poor. 5

The new government's policy has yet to be fully disclosed, but the knowledge that it is irrevocably committed to serious cuts has roused the entire Labour movement to determined opposition. The justification offered for these methods is the existence of a financial crisis which has been aggravated beyond measure by deliberately alarmist statements in sections of the Press and by a protracted campaign that has created the impression abroad that Great Britain is on the edge of bankruptcy. Nothing could be further from the truth. 10

Source C

From 'The Times', 25 August 1931. In this period, the newspaper 'The Times' usually supported the Conservative Party.

The country awakens this morning to find Mr MacDonald still Prime Minister, with the prospect of a small Cabinet of all three parties. All concerned are to be warmly congratulated on this result, so fully in accord with the patriotic spirit which has inspired a week's most anxious negotiations. The Prime Minister, and the colleagues of his own party who have followed him, deserve particular credit, both for the manner in which they took their political lives in their hands by facing and forcing the break-up of the late Cabinet, and for their new decision to translate courage in the Cabinet into courage in the country. Their readiness to share the responsibility of carrying through to the end a policy of retrenchment adds enormously to the prospect of its success. No one henceforth will be able to claim that retrenchment is a class or partisan policy, dictated solely by an unsubstantial panic manufactured by industrial and financial interests.

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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 the formation of the National government on 24 August 1931.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 How effectively did British governments deal with the issue of Ireland in the years 1912 to 1921? **[25 marks]**

0 3 To what extent was the Conservatives' victory in the 1924 election due to the weaknesses of Labour? **[25 marks]**

0 4 'The economic and financial policies of the Conservatives in the years 1951 to 1957 were merely a continuation of Labour's.'
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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