

A-level HISTORY

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

Wednesday 13 June 2018 Afternoon 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 an official parliamentary report of a speech by Harry Brodie, Liberal MP, during a House of Commons debate on the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, February 1908.

Brodie said: those hon. Members who were there to support the Bill were confident of the triumph of the principle which it embodied, that sex should be no barrier to participation in the Parliamentary franchise. There were always those people who were generally in favour of a reform until that reform became a question of practical politics. There were also those timid people, who had been alarmed by the action of a few women. These were not bad women, but women who, denied what seemed to them an essential and elementary act of justice, had been driven to adopt methods of propaganda which most of them disliked and deplored. To these timid friends he could only say that they should remember the great body of women of splendid and earnest character who worked for them at the last election. Those who had known good women, and they all knew them, must welcome the extension of the radiance and inspiration of the home to the State.

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Source B

From the introduction to 'Women of the Empire in Wartime', published in London in 1916 by the Dominion of Canada News Co.

The one thing on which there can be no difference of opinion is the splendid manner in which the women of the Empire have risen to the challenge in this horrible crisis. I do not think that up to 1914 women themselves realised their own capabilities. I am quite sure we men had not the faintest idea of their wonderful strength, adaptability, endurance and power of self-sacrifice. All this will mean a new world when peace comes. It means an entire regeneration of womanhood but also of manhood, as you can be assured that the new women will not rest satisfied with the old men. It will be unreasonable to expect women, who have tasted power, to go back into their old ruts, made for them by centuries of convention. Once out of the ruts they will take good care not to sink back into them and who can blame them?

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Source C

From a letter from the President of the London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers to the Home Secretary, 13 February 1917.

My Executive Council view with alarm the action taken by the Home Office on the matter of training women drivers in the face of previous resolutions registering the hostility of the members to the training of women drivers. I would point out to you that already a very serious dispute has taken place at Croydon when two women being taught to drive trams resulted in a cessation from work for many weeks. When one takes into consideration the huge number of accidents to persons and property, owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing as a result of the war conditions, when vehicles are being driven by men who are experienced, we feel that the menace to the public will be increased due to the introduction of female licensed drivers. I need hardly point out to you that we are keen to avoid anything in the nature of a labour dispute and trust you will see the necessity of meeting an early deputation to hear our case.

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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 position of women before 1918.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- | | |
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 To what extent was unemployment the key issue in the 1929 election? **[25 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
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 To what extent did radical political groups pose a threat to the British government in the 1930s? **[25 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
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 'Conservative governments, in the years 1951 to 1957, were right to claim that Britain had 'never had it so good'.'
- Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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