

A-level HISTORY

Component 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Wednesday 5 June 2019 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 7042/2S.
- 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 memoirs of Peter Mandelson, entitled, 'The Third Man', published in 2011. Mandelson was a close friend of Blair and Brown, holding several cabinet positions between 1997 and 2010.

Developing a strategy against William Hague was the easy part. The Tory leader had made a fool of himself in the public's mind with his baseball cap, his ride on a water chute and his fourteen-pints-a-day boast, all intended to make him appear 'normal' and one of the lads, but having the opposite effect. The choice was clear. We would almost certainly win if we simply highlighted Tory weaknesses and ran on Gordon's slogan of 'Labour investment versus Tory cuts'. But Tony wanted to be more ambitious and radical. He had a much broader idea of what he wanted to accomplish, and how to achieve it, than when he had first entered Number 10. He knew how government worked now. In order to leave a mark, not only on the Labour Party but on Britain, he would have to prioritise core areas in which we could deliver real change. Education and health were obviously paramount: 'Schools and hospitals first' would become the campaign slogan. 5 10

Source B

From a research paper written by university professors, Paul Whiteley and Patrick Seyd, in May 2002. They specialised in election strategy and the impact of party campaigns on voters.

Labour's campaign, 'Operation Turnout', leading up to the 2001 general election, concentrated upon specific voters and constituencies. It targeted three groups. First, weak Labour supporters who were defined as first-time Labour voters in 1997; secondly, those whose support for the party had become less firm or who had not voted in local or European elections in the intervening years; and thirdly, Labour supporters in low turn-out areas. The party believed that the problem with these weak Labour voters would not be that they might switch to other parties but that they might not vote. So Labour's campaign strategy was to mobilise these people. Campaigning resources were concentrated upon 148 'priority' seats and the party's members were encouraged to work in these. Overall, the evidence suggests that Labour was able to do more reinforcing of its support than its main rivals; in particular the party out-campaigned its rivals by a significant margin when it came to reminding the voters to turn out on polling day. 5 10

Source C

From an article in 'The Economist', 31 May 2001. This weekly newspaper targets a highly educated readership and does not favour a particular political party.

'The problem for us is that we are simply not credible. Let's face it, we've had it' says a former Conservative cabinet minister. The Tory faithful have begun to despair. Things look as bad as they did in 1997. The reason is not that Labour has won the campaign, but that the Tories have lost it. Part of the problem is organisational. The party is in tatters. As Labour has moved onto the centre ground, so the Tories have abandoned it. And it isn't just William Hague's policies that people dislike; it's the man himself. Focus groups hate the Tory leader's flat, grating Yorkshire voice and his 'wally-like' appearance. Lord Blake, historian of the Conservative Party, takes a longer-term view. He believes the Labour tide was unstoppable at this election; that the Tory failure was little to do with the leadership and that criticism of William Hague is misplaced. Political parties that have undergone a traumatic election defeat invariably require at least two elections to recover, he points out.

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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 Conservative Party's defeat in the 2001 election.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'Britain became completely dependent on the United States in the years 1956 to 1962.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent can the Labour government take credit for the liberal reforms of the years 1964 to 1970?

[25 marks]

0 4 'Thatcher's economic policies created an 'economic miracle' in the years 1983 to 1987.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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