

A-level HISTORY

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

Wednesday 3 June 2020 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 7042/2S.
- 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 'Ireland: the Peace Process' by Frank Millar, 2007. A former Ulster Unionist politician, Millar was Irish Journalist of the Year, 1998, for his coverage of the peace negotiations.

Blair could hardly have failed in Northern Ireland, could he? He owed much to those who had gone before. Much of the big thinking and preparation had preceded him. Was the search for peace there simply one of those 'eye-catching initiatives' with which we knew he liked to be associated? The answer – at least in terms of the 'big picture' – must surely be 'no'. Blair could certainly be inconsistent. His short-termism and lack of attention to detail infuriated many. And he was without doubt capable of saying different things to different people. However, from his earliest days as Opposition leader, Blair was telling anyone who would listen that he would be firmly on the side of those seeking an end to the conflict. He gave notice that he would be in it for the long haul. Blair's great promise to the people of Northern Ireland was that, from this time on, their concerns would be addressed with a commitment on all sides to purely peaceful and democratic means.

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Source B

From 'The Price of Peace', by David Trimble, 2004. Trimble was the Ulster Unionist Party leader from 1995. His book discusses negotiations leading to the Good Friday Agreement.

I think Blair's political horizons are fairly short-term, always. He's actually got family connections with the province and maybe, knowing that, makes me too willing to take a favourable view of what he's doing. There is something of the actor/manager about him, driven by the need always to win the next election. He's also like a magpie, always randomly looking out for bright ideas. He's not ideologically driven. But I do take the view that what we did in the talks is the basis of the solution to what people call 'the Northern Ireland problem'. I was negotiating with the British, the Irish and the SDLP to get an agreement and trying to lock the Republicans further into the process as well. Because Blair was involved in bringing about the Agreement, then he is going to be seen as having made a huge contribution. But the judgement that people are going to make, about how Blair handled the implementation, is going to be a bit more variable.

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Source C

From an introduction to a new edition of 'The Irish Diaries (1994–2003)', by Alastair Campbell, 2013. Campbell was Tony Blair's Director of Communications.

The plane ride from Belfast after Tony, Bertie Ahern and others had signed the Good Friday Agreement was the happiest moment of my time in politics and government. What is clear from these diaries is that from our days in Opposition, Tony was fascinated by, and determined to do something about, improving the political scene in Northern Ireland. Lesser men would have given up when faced with the many setbacks along the way. But here Tony's essential optimism was important. He could see good in characters in whom others only saw bad. He could see hope where others saw reasons only for despair. And once he had tasted the success of a deal between the parties, he was never going to let it go. There would be many more ups and downs, many more setbacks linked to the sectarianism of the past but for the vast majority of the people in Ireland there is no going back. Good Friday 1998 had a touch of the miraculous about it.

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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 Tony Blair's role in bringing about the Good Friday Agreement.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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'The Conservatives were politically dominant, in the years 1951 to 1959, because they had effective leaders and policies.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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To what extent did race relations improve in the years 1964 to 1970?

[25 marks]

0	4
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'John Major's successes as Prime Minister, in the years 1992 to 1997, outweigh his failures.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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