A-level
HISTORY

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

Friday 7 June 2024 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:
  – 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  – 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a major televised debate on the state of the Labour Party by the moderate MP, Stephen Haseler, March 1980. Haseler was expelled from Labour and joined the SDP, 1981.

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Source A is by Stephen Haseler, a moderate MP who was expelled from Labour and joined the SDP. Haseler is arguing that the Labour Party had been 'taken over' by 'extremist infiltrators' and that the country needed a new kind of social democratic party for moderates of the centre left. He argues that the Labour Party had irrevocably changed and was moving to the far left, away from its social democratic roots.

Source B

From 'The Downing Street Years', an autobiography by Margaret Thatcher, 1993. Thatcher is commenting on the state of the political opposition at the time of the 1983 UK general election.

The opposition itself was divided between Labour and the new SDP, which claimed to have truly broken the mould of British two-party politics. But we were the mould breakers. I always felt that the leaders of the SDP would have done better to stay in the Labour Party and drive out the Far Left. SDP support had peaked by 1983. As for Labour, it had continued its unstoppable leftward shift. Michael Foot is a highly principled and cultivated man, and was invariably courteous in our dealings. In debate and on the platform he has a kind of genius. But the policies he adopted were not only catastrophically unsuitable for Britain, they also provided an umbrella beneath which sinister revolutionaries, intent on destroying the institutions of the state and the values of society, were able to shelter. The more the public learned of Labour's policies and personnel the less they liked them. There was no doubt that in the extreme form adopted under Michael Foot's leadership Labour was easier to beat.

Source C

From reminiscences given in an interview for a book on Militant Tendency by Mike Hogan in Liverpool, 2012. Hogan was a left-wing Labour activist in the early 1980s.

Growing up on a working-class estate in Liverpool, I was already aware of the class struggle. So many workers were being thrown out of work at that time, it felt like everything was collapsing around you. I started going to Young Socialist meetings and got recruited into Militant Tendency. Militant was proper Labour. It was all about believing the working class can run things. It seemed to me for the first time in my short life that there was hope. That's where I was coming from. I was at the huge demo outside Liverpool Town Hall in March 1984 against Thatcher's rate-capping. About 50 000 people packed the city centre. I spoke from the top of the Town Hall steps about youth unemployment and how the council was prepared to fight and do something about government cuts. To be honest with you, we had a kind of arrogance, a sure belief we knew what needed to be done. But we were betrayed by the leadership of the Labour movement.

0 1 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the problems of the Labour Party in the 1980s.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent were the lives of British people transformed by Conservative governments in the years 1951 to 1957?

[25 marks]

0 3 'Britain's international position grew stronger in the years 1970 to 1974.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 How significant were sleaze and scandals in weakening John Major's government in the years 1992 to 1997?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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