GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U40-1

S23-2100U40-1

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2
DEPTH STUDY 4
Politics and society in Wales and England c.1900–1939
Part 1: Politics, society and the War: Wales and England c.1900–1918

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example | **0** | **1** | .

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

© WJEC CBAC Ltd.

Answer **both** questions

0 1 Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the grievances of the industrial workers of Wales between 1901 and 1910. [30]

Source A WJ Parry, a prominent North Wales trade unionist, outlines, in a written pamphlet, the causes of the Penrhyn quarry dispute and makes an appeal to the quarry owners (1901)

A system giving big contracts to one man had been brought into the quarry, which, in the opinion of the men, was a great injustice to a large class of workers. An inferior class of workmen took these contracts and engaged a superior class of men to work for them at reduced prices. Some men did not like this and 14 of them were suspended for three days. In about a fortnight, the 14 were informed that they were not allowed to work in the same area of the quarry anymore, but were to be distributed to various parts of the quarry, and in the meantime all their jobs were given to one of the big contractors, against whom there had been growing great hatred.

[As a consequence] we call for concessions: the right to elect spokesmen to discuss grievances, the right to discuss matters during the dinner hour, the reinstatement of our leaders and the humanizing of the harsh rules of the quarry.

Source B An editorial in the left-wing newspaper the *South Wales Daily News* (1906). The newspaper was supportive of the labour movement and the unions.

The basis of the LRC [Labour Representation Committee] is wide enough to embrace the interests of all workers of hand and brain, and is strong enough to attack all the unfair privileges which our landlords and capitalists extort out of the wealth created by the toil of workers of the country … The cause of labour is the cause of the nation … The industrial conditions of our lives as workers are controlled by the laws made in Parliament by the very men who do not hesitate, as employers, to grind the last penny out of our toil. This is why labour representation, if it is to be effective, must also be independent [of existing political parties]. That is, the best interests of labour are best served by all LRC members uniting to form a distinct political organisation of their own, with a distinct political principle and ideal of their own.

© WJEC CBAC Ltd.

Source C JM Staniforth, a political cartoonist known for his support of the government, depicts Law and Order beckoning the military into Tonypandy during the riots, in the cartoon "Dangerous diseases need drastic remedies", published in the *Western Mail* (1910)

0 2 Historians have made different interpretations about **the impact of war on society**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the impact of the First World War was a largely negative experience for the people of Wales and England between 1914 and 1918? [30]

Interpretation 1 R Merfyn Jones, in this extract from his book *The North Wales Quarrymen 1874–1922* (1982), provides a local and economic interpretation.

The war brought paralysis to the building industry and cut off slate's remaining export markets. The effects were felt immediately: within a month of the outbreak of war those quarries that had not stopped all production were on short-time contracts. By the end of September 1914 there were 1,170 unemployed quarrymen in one town in North Wales alone. In the slate-quarrying villages there was much social distress and people initially refused to support any recruiting campaign for the war. Distress committees were set up to alleviate some of the problems, but many people in North Wales were destitute.

Interpretation 2 Ian Cawood, in this extract from his textbook *Britain in the Twentieth Century* (2004), provides a social interpretation.

Britain witnessed perhaps the least disruption to civilian society during the war [compared to other countries]. Living standards were maintained and the centralised distribution of food supplies and rationing ensured that diet and nutrition, notably amongst the poorest in society, improved dramatically. British workers made gains from the war, using their role in war production to force improvements in pay and conditions, as well as greater participation in government. For many households the family income actually went further and, despite some issues with food availability, the introduction of fixed prices for essential foods did much to maintain morale.

END OF PAPER

© WJEC CBAC Ltd.