



# A-level HISTORY

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

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Friday 6 June 2025 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From an article by Hugh Massingham in 'The Observer', a centre-left newspaper, 22 June 1952. Massingham was a leading political commentator in Britain in the 1950s.

The real reason why the Conservatives are so anxious is that the government seems in a muddle, unable to come up with popular policies. Many moderate Conservatives are saying that Mr Churchill is the real cause of all the indecision. Certainly he must take part of the blame for the government lacking direction. There has never been a Prime Minister who has dominated his colleagues as he has done. Mr Churchill no doubt has his faults, but he is still a giant and makes many of his colleagues look like pygmies. There are also some MPs who are by no means certain that Mr Eden would be an improvement, even if supported by Mr Butler and Mr Macmillan. The crisis in the Conservative Party is not only over policy but also over conflicting personalities and ambitions. Although it is impossible to believe in any organised rebellion, at least at the moment, it does not follow that Mr Churchill can entirely ignore the genuine disquiet in his party.

**Source B**

From the diary of Anthony Eden, 22 December 1952.

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**Source B is Eden arguing that Churchill seems constantly to want to push back his resignation.**

**Source C**

From an article entitled 'Encounters with Winston Churchill' by Russell Brain, a distinguished neurologist, in 1966. It was published in 'Medical History', a prestigious academic journal, shortly after Churchill's death.

I first saw Churchill as a patient in 1949 when he had had a minor stroke and, subsequently, following his more serious stroke in June 1953, which was kept hidden from the public. Eden was also seriously ill at this time and it was thought that Butler would have become Prime Minister if Churchill had had to resign. By late July, Churchill's condition was improving. He struck me as a man of great personality and stature with enormous willpower, with much still to offer the nation. He invariably only wanted to discuss foreign affairs at our meetings and was convinced that after filling in for Eden as Foreign Secretary, Britain's influence in the world had naturally increased. It was clear he believed it was his duty to go on as leader. He still had 'his bite', he told me. I have always made it a practice to write down afterwards the detail of conversations I had with people whose conversation was worth recording, and I did that with Churchill.

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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 Winston Churchill's government in the years 1951 to 1955.

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

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2**

To what extent were the reforms of the Liberal governments, in the years 1906 to 1911, due to New Liberalism?

**[25 marks]**

**0 3**

'The First World War had a disastrous impact on the British economy in the years 1914 to 1918.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4**

'Living standards, in the years 1933 to 1939, improved for the people of Britain.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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