

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1D: Britain, c1785-1870: Democracy, Protest and Reform

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1D

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From William Hague, *William Wilberforce*, published 2008.

In 1807 Wilberforce used both his political and religious beliefs, arguing that slavery might provoke God's anger. In this way the abolitionist campaign in its final stages was more than the economic arguments of national self-interest. It was also a strong moral cause, an attack on the inhumanity of the slave trade. Slavery could be abolished if Parliament would act morally. 5

The moral and practical arguments which Wilberforce had used came together in 1807. So did his unceasing efforts to move parliamentary opinion over the previous twenty years. He was not simply a spokesman for something that had always been inevitable. Abolition was not bound to happen in 1807: it required a number of forces to act together. One of these forces, in many ways the decisive one, was Wilberforce and his band of 'Saints'. That Wilberforce's role had been crucial was never doubted at the time, from the Prime Minister downwards. Nor should it be doubted now. 10

Extract 2: From Howard Temperley, *Ideology of Antislavery*, published 1981.

There are contradictory explanations as to why the slave trade was abolished in 1807. Some argue that abolition was the result of a long process of reasoned argument. Yet the antislavery argument that was presented to Parliament and the British public could not conceivably have been the achievement of one individual, group or even one generation. 15

The economic argument for the abolition of slavery is important. The economic argument is more firmly rooted in the major and most obvious developments of the period. Britain was the first nation to industrialise, and took the lead in the campaigns to abolish the slave trade and slavery. This is hardly a coincidence. Any explanation of the abolition of the slave trade, which is based on developments in the realm of ideas, and which fails to relate to how the economy works, is extremely unsatisfactory. 20
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