



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y141/01 Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour

1846–1918

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

England and a New Century c.1900–1918

Study these three sources and then answer **both** questions.

- 1 Use your knowledge of the issue of the Coalition of 1915 to assess how useful Source A is as an explanation for the formation of the Coalition. [10]

- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that unity within the Coalition of 1915 was impossible. [20]

Source A: A radical Liberal MP recalls Asquith's explanation to his fellow Liberals for deciding to form a coalition.

Some Liberal MPs were unhappy with the conduct of the war and were calling for a vote of no confidence in Asquith's government. As things were shaping badly, Asquith was fetched to address his critics. Asquith spoke with deep feeling. Within a week a wholly new situation had been revealed to him. He could not reveal the truth to us yet without imperilling national safety. But the situation was of the gravest kind. Coalition became inevitable. It was not pleasant to go into harness with men who were bitter enemies. He asked for our confidence. The meeting gave him an over-powering ovation.

A. MacCallum Scott, diary, 19 May 1915

Source B: A Liberal member of the Coalition Cabinet records in his diary the debate amongst ministers of the government on whether conscription should be introduced.

Lansdowne, Curzon, Law and Austin Chamberlain were for leaving the Cabinet if conscription were not proposed. Chamberlain did so because of his ambitions to be leader of the Conservatives. Balfour and Long would remain in whatever happened. With the resigners would go Churchill and Lloyd George who, afraid he had muddled the Ministry of Munitions, thought he had better get out while there was time to blame someone else. The PM was a convinced voluntaryist but lacked the support of his main confidantes, McKenna and Harcourt. Henderson told the Cabinet squarely that the Labour Party would resist conscription by every means.

Charles Hobhouse, Inside Asquith's Cabinet, 14 October 1915

Source C: A prominent Liberal and member of the Cabinet comments on Asquith as Prime Minister during the early part of the First World War.

For a coalition to be effective, the parties involved must give and take. I saw Mr Asquith at the head of two War Governments, one Liberal, the other Coalition, and from a close acquaintance with him in both administrations, I am able to say unhesitatingly and without qualification that once war was declared, in neither of his Governments did he give any thought to party advantage. Indeed, so completely did he forget party principles during the Coalition that, in his desire to appease old opponents and so ensure unity, he agreed to a Protectionist Budget.

David Lloyd George, War Memoirs of David Lloyd George, published in 1938

SECTION B**Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour, 1846–1902**

Answer **ONE** question.

- 3*** To what extent was Britain's position as a great power diminished between 1846 and 1865? **[20]**
- 4*** 'The unpopularity of Gladstone's reforms explains the defeat of the Liberals in 1874.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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