



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 15 May 2024 – Afternoon

AS Level History A

Y143/01 Britain 1930–1997

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

INFORMATION

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

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Churchill 1930–1951

Study the **three** sources and answer **both** questions in this section.

- 1 Use your knowledge of the events surrounding the abdication of Edward VIII to assess how useful Source C is as evidence of support for Edward during the Abdication Crisis. [10]
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Churchill acted unwisely in the Abdication Crisis. [20]

Source A: A Conservative MP who supported Baldwin records Churchill's attempt to prevent Edward VIII abdicating.

I ran into Bob Boothby, a friend of Churchill. He told me in confidence that last night at Chartwell, Churchill's home, he and Archie Sinclair (Leader of the Liberals) and Winston Churchill drew up a paper to the effect that 'I will never undertake, as long as I am king, a marriage against the wishes of my ministers' – which they hoped the king would sign. It would give him a way out, for in the future, should his position become intolerable, he could still abdicate, or as might easily happen, future ministers might eventually allow the marriage to Mrs Simpson. The problem was how to get the king to sign it. I see a ray of hope, but the House of Commons does not. The king is losing support.

Henry 'Chips' Channon, diary, 7 December 1936.

Source B: A supporter of Churchill writes to him following Churchill's speech in the Commons, during which he, Churchill, was shouted down by other MPs.

You were going to use all your powers [which would have been] decisive. This afternoon you have delivered a blow to the king, both in the House and in the country, far harder than Baldwin ever conceived of. You have reduced the number of potential supporters to the minimum possible. I should think now about seven in all. And you have done it without any consultation with your best friends and supporters.

Sir Robert Boothby, letter to Churchill, 8 December 1936.

Source C: Churchill speech following the abdication of Edward VIII.

In the prince there were discerned qualities of courage, of simplicity of sympathy, and, above all, of sincerity. Qualities rarer and precious which might have made his reign glorious in the annals of this ancient monarchy. It is a tragedy that these very virtues should, in the private sphere, have led only to this melancholy and bitter conclusion. But, although our hopes today are withered, still I will assert that his personality will not go down uncherished to future ages. That it will be particularly remembered in the homes of his poorer subjects and that they will ever wish from the bottom of their hearts for his private peace and happiness.

I must say one word more. We cannot afford – we have no right – to look back. We must look forward: we must obey the exhortation of the Prime Minister.

Churchill, speech to the House of Commons, 10 December 1936.

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SECTION B

Britain 1951–1997

Answer Question 3 **or** Question 4.

3* 'Callaghan was a more successful leader of the Labour party than Wilson.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

4* Assess the reasons for Conservative electoral defeat in 1997.

[20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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