



## SECTION A

**Peel and the Age of Reform 1832–1853**

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

- 1 Use your knowledge of the Corn Laws to assess how useful Source B is as evidence about the Anti-Corn Law League. [10]
  
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that political reasons explain the repeal of the Corn Laws. [20]

**Source A: The Prime Minister outlines his response to reports about the shortage of food.**

There is the prospect of a serious deficiency of the ordinary food of the people in many parts of Ireland, and in some parts of England and Scotland. The evil may be much greater than present reports lead us to anticipate. Can we vote public money for the sustenance of the people and maintain the existing restrictions on the free import of grain? I do not believe we can. It will be dangerous for the Government to resist any modification of the Corn Laws. I am fully aware of the gravity of the implications of this for the party.

*Sir Robert Peel, Cabinet Memorandum, 1 November 1845*

**Source B: Prince Albert provides an analysis of the basis of Peel's decision to repeal the Corn Laws.**

The League has made huge progress and has enormous means at their disposal. Sir Robert thinks he can resolve the war between the manufacturers, who support the League, the hungry and the poor against the landed proprietors and the aristocracy which can only end in the ruin of the latter. He will not bring forward a measure upon the Corn Laws, but a much more comprehensive one. He will adopt the principle of the League, *that of removing all protection and abolishing all monopoly*, not in favour of one class, but to the benefit of the nation, farmers as well as manufacturers.

*Prince Albert, memorandum, 25 December 1845*

**Source C: The Prime Minister explains his motives for repealing the Corn Laws.**

I think you could have continued the Corn Laws a little longer. However, I believed that there would have been a bitter struggle during this period and it was desirable to come to a permanent and fair solution to this question. The interests of the landlords and the occupying tenants, important as they are, are subordinate to the great question – what is calculated to improve the condition and elevate the social character of the millions who subsist by manual labour. My earnest wish since being in office has been to show the people that Parliament would frame laws upon the principles of equity and justice.

*Sir Robert Peel, speech, 15 May 1846*

**SECTION B**

**British Government in the Age of Revolution 1783–1832**

Answer **ONE** question.

**EITHER**

- 3\*** How successful was Lord Liverpool's government in dealing with the radical challenge, 1812–1822? **[20]**

**OR**

- 4\*** 'The most important reason for the passage of the Great Reform Act of 1832 was the inadequacies of the electoral system.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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