



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y142/01 Britain 1900–1951

Wednesday 17 May 2017 – 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 answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- 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 origins and development of the Labour Party from 1893 to 1914 to assess how useful Source B is as an explanation of the advantages to the Labour Party of an electoral pact with the Liberal Party. [10]
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that the weakness of the Labour Party before 1914 was due to its association with the Liberal Party. [20]

Source A: A year after his election as Labour MP for West Ham, Keir Hardie justifies his refusal to toe the Liberal line to his constituents.

The ILP starts from the assumption that the men who are to achieve reforms for the worker must be under no obligation to the landlord, the capitalist or any party representing these interests. What would the effect be upon the actions of nominally Labour Members in the House of Commons who owed their election to a compromise with the Liberals? When questions affecting property were at stake or when they desired to adopt social legislation of a drastic character, they would always be opposed by the Liberals. I have no desire to hold a seat on sufferance and at the mercy of those not in agreement with me. I cannot agree to compromise my independence of action.

Keir Hardie, speech, 1893

Source B: Herbert Gladstone's secretary outlines the case for an electoral pact of the Liberal Party with the Labour Representation Committee (LRC).

Some employers of labour who support the Liberal Party have sincere sympathy with many of the objectives of the LRC. Individuals of the Liberal Party, in and out of Parliament, who are out of sympathy with the principles of the LRC are few, and the loss of their financial aid and votes would be inconsiderable. The LRC can directly influence the votes of nearly a million men. They have a fighting fund of £100 000. Their members are mainly men who have voted with the Liberal Party in the past. Unfriendly action towards LRC candidates would lead to their defeat, but so also should we be defeated.

Jesse Herbert, letter, 6 March 1903

Source C: A leading intellectual in the Labour Movement comments on the state of the Labour Party at the 21st anniversary gala of the founding of the Independent Labour Party (ILP).

The ILP leaders were painfully divided. I think MacDonald would welcome a really conclusive reason for joining the Liberal Party. Snowden is ill and Keir Hardie has no real faith left in the Labour movement. Jowett – that dull but devotedly pious Socialist – carried his unpractical resolution that Labour members ought, on all questions, vote according to the merits of the particular issue before the House. The Trade Unions are swelling in membership and funds, more candidates are being put forward but the faith of politically active members is becoming dim and confused whilst the rank and file become increasingly restive.

Beatrice Webb, Diaries, 1914

SECTION B**Britain c.1918–1951**

Answer **ONE** question.

- 3*** 'The main reason for the failure of the British Union of Fascists was its dependence on Oswald Mosley.' How far do you agree? **[20]**
- 4*** 'Poor leadership by the TUC was the most important reason for the failure of the General Strike in 1926.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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