



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y112

Britain 1900–1951

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.13

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



First name											
Last name											
Centre number							Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and either Question 2 or Question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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 **8** pages.

Section A

England and a New Century c1900–1918

Study the four sources and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Asquith should bear the responsibility for splitting the Liberal Party in 1916.

[30]

Source A: A radical Liberal MP notes Asquith’s explanation to his fellow Liberals for the formation of the Coalition with Bonar Law and the Conservatives.

Asquith announced today that the Government was under reconstruction. Afterwards, at a hastily called party, some spoke very strongly against a coalition, taking the line that the Prime Minister owed some explanation to his party. Asquith was persuaded to address the meeting. He spoke with deep feeling. He looked old and worried. He flung himself on our mercy. The situation was of the gravest kind. Coalition had become inevitable. It was not pleasant to go into harness with men who were his bitterest enemies. The meeting gave him an over–powering ovation.

A MacCallum Scott, diary, 19 May 1915

Source B: A Liberal politician recalls the comments of a member of the Coalition government on the developing debate within the Cabinet on war policy.

Chamberlain would leave the Cabinet if conscription was not proposed whereas McKenna, who was Asquith’s only confidant, and Henderson, the Labour leader, would resign if conscription was agreed by the Cabinet. Bonar Law would resign if the Gallipoli peninsula was not abandoned. Lloyd George, who saw no opening to the leadership, was much afraid he had muddled the Ministry of Munitions, for which he would be called to account, thought it better to get out whilst there was time. Asquith was still against conscription but was trying to find a way of keeping the government together.

C Hobhouse, conversation, 14 October 1915

Source C: In his response to a letter from Bonar Law, the Leader of the Conservatives and a member of the coalition, Asquith offers his views on the formation of a new war committee, comprising Bonar Law, David Lloyd George and Lord Carson.

What follows is intended for your eyes alone. I appreciate the loyalty with which you have put forward your proposal but I cannot adopt it. Lloyd George has many qualities but he does not inspire trust. Your proposal has been engineered by him with the purpose of displacing me. The plan could not be carried out without fatally impairing the confidence of loyal colleagues and undermining my own authority. Given the frankness of our relations ever since the coalition was formed, I can tell you I am tempted to seek relief from the intolerable burden of labour and anxiety.

Herbert Asquith, letter, 26 November 1916

Source D: In her diary, David Lloyd George's secretary (who later became his wife) records her recollections of the period immediately before Asquith resigned. In the extract, D refers to David Lloyd George and PM refers to Asquith.

22 November: D says that the PM is absolutely hopeless. He cannot make up his mind about anything and seems to have lost all willpower.

30 November: If D and Bonar Law act together it will smash the government. Letters from all parts of the country are urging D to take over: he seems to be the only one in whom people have confidence.

2 December: The PM insists on being Chairman of the new War Committee and that the Cabinet should have the final word in all matters. The vital part of D's proposal was that neither would have anything to do with the new committee.

Frances Stevenson, diary extracts, 1916

Section B

Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour

Answer **ONE** question.

EITHER

2* Assess the reasons why the first Labour government was short-lived.

[20]

OR

3* How successful were the policies of the National Governments in dealing with the social and economic problems they faced?

[20]

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Source A: Alexander MacCallum Scott, diary, 19 May 1915 Reproduced with permission from University of Glasgow, Special Collections.

Source B: Inside Asquith's Cabinet: From the Diaries of Charles Hobhouse Sir Charles Edward Henry Hobhouse (bart.) Edward David Murray, 1977

Source C: Herbert Asquith, letter, 26 November 1916

Source D: Adapted from: Stevenson, F. (1971), *Lloyd George: A Diary*. Hutchinson. Reproduced with permission from David Higham Associates Ltd.

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