



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U40-1



S24-2100U40-1

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 4

Politics and society in Wales and England c.1900–1939

**Part 1: Politics, society and the War: Wales and England
c.1900–1918**

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

Answer **both** questions.

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the social impact of war between 1904 and 1917. [30]

Source A The official government *Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration* (the Fitzroy Report) (1904)

And what of the poor physical state of our fighting men? With scarcely an exception, there was a general consensus of opinion that the time has come when the State should realise the necessity of ensuring adequate nourishment for children in attendance at school. Without this nourishment it would be the height of cruelty to subject half-starved children to the process of education, besides being a short-sighted policy. The progress of such children is inadequate and disappointing and it was, further, the subject of general agreement that no voluntary organisation could successfully deal with this evil. Even those witnesses who were inclined to think that its magnitude had been much exaggerated, did not question the advisability of feeding, by some means or other, those children who are underfed, provided it could be done quietly and without impairing parental responsibility.

Source B Charles Stanton, a prominent left-wing Union leader for the South Wales Miners' Federation, in a letter published in *The Merthyr Express* (7 August 1914)

I sent to tell Mr Hardie the reason why I could not preside at the meeting. I pointed out that such a course was inadvisable, and that at such a moment as this, I felt that, although a Socialist, I was a Britisher, and that it would only lead to the most harmful results to our movement to take part in what appears to be an anti-British and unpatriotic climb-down to the German Emperor ...

Do you think that I kept away from the recruitment meeting last night for fear of being booed? I am not afraid of being booed. I have had to suffer that on behalf of my opinions on numerous occasions and will have to face the ordeal again very likely. But I would not have been booed last night that is for sure. I want to stand up for all who will help to maintain the international respect paid to our reputation as British citizens. In times of distress and trouble I stand with my country. We are in the midst of a gigantic war, and therefore our solemn duty is to be patriotic and strain every nerve to emerge out of it with credit to the history of our past as British citizens.

Source C A report on women and war work in the left-wing magazine *The New Statesman* (June 1917)

Three years of war have been enough to effect an amazing transformation in the average factory woman. In munition centres especially the change is indisputable. Women of a slightly superior class have been brought into the factories by patriotic impulses and may have had an emboldening influence over those with whom they work – the meek women who were factory workers for years before the war and used to cringe to managers and foremen. These girls, from eighteen to twenty-five, who were thrust into the labour market the moment they left school, appear more alert, more critical of the conditions under which they work, more ready to make a stand against injustice, than their pre-war selves. They have a keener appetite for experience and pleasure and a tendency, quite new to their class, to protest against wrongs even before they become intolerable.

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Historians have made different interpretations about **the changing political fortunes of the major parties**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that, by 1914, the Labour Party had managed to displace the Liberal Party as the party of the working classes? [30]

Interpretation 1 Ross McKibbin, in this extract from his book *The Evolution of the Labour Party, 1910–1924* (1974), presents an interpretation that suggests Labour's working-class support had grown by 1914.

The years before the war saw the effective replacement of the Liberal Party by the Labour Party. By 1914 there was a growing feeling in the country that the Liberal Party was no longer the party of the working classes and that the Labour Party was. The Labour Party was the political side of the unions, an industrial organisation that had grown rapidly by the early twentieth century. Since the Labour Party was so strongly linked with the unions, the party itself gained electorally from their growth.

Interpretation 2 Martin Pugh, in this extract from his book *The Making of Modern British Politics, 1867–1945* (2002), presents an interpretation that suggests Labour's working-class support had declined by 1914.

In the pre-war elections there seems to be no grounds for seeing Labour as poised to displace the Liberals by 1914. By 1914 Labour had come bottom of the poll in each of the fourteen industrial seats it contested, polling 10–20 per cent in six seats and 20–30 per cent in eight. The Liberals retained almost all their seats. Even in seats dominated by mining, fewer than half of the coal miners supported Labour. Labour's worst results occurred in four seats they originally held, coming last in the polls in three of them. Electorally the Labour Party did manage to gain ground in the early 1900s but they reached their peak around 1906–1907 and fell back thereafter.

END OF PAPER