



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U30-1



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HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 3

Reform and Protest in Wales and England c. 1783-1848

Part 1: Radicalism and the fight for Parliamentary Reform c. 1783-1832

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **both** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on answering each question.

The sources and extracts used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

UNIT 2

DEPTH STUDY 3

Reform and Protest in Wales and England c. 1783-1848

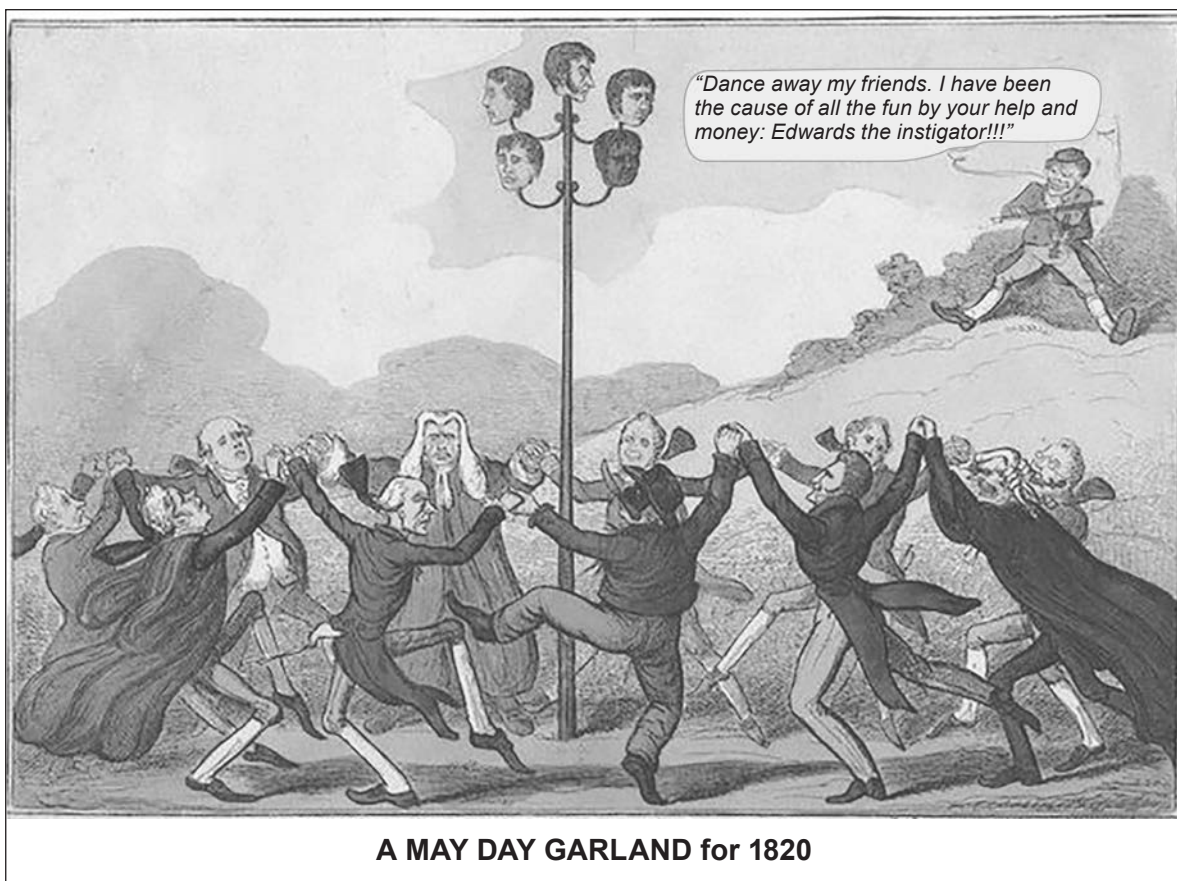
Part 1: Radicalism and the fight for Parliamentary Reform c. 1783-1832

Answer both questions.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

Source A



[A radical cartoon portraying Tory ministers dancing around a maypole with the heads of the executed Cato Street conspirators displayed. The government spy, Edwards, looks on playing a fiddle (May 1820)]

Source B

The government is as strong as any government can wish to be, as far as those sitting on the opposite benches can see. The government is committed to reform and is in truth faced by real opposition only from its own backbenchers - the stupid old Tory party who bawl out the memory and praises of Pitt while they oppose all the measures he held most important. The progress of the government in every reform it has made so far is thwarted and impeded only by our own backbenchers. On the Catholic question; on the Corn Laws; on the laws regulating trade; on all these questions and everything like them the government finds support from the Whigs and resistance from its so-called friends on the back benches.

[A private letter from Lord Palmerston, a Tory government minister, to his brother (17 July 1826)]

Source C

When I first took on the duties of Home Secretary, there were laws in existence which imposed upon the subjects of this realm unusual and extraordinary restrictions. The fact is undeniable that those laws have now been reformed. Tory as I am, I have the further satisfaction of knowing that there is not a single law connected with my name which has not had for its object some mitigation of the severity of the criminal law, some prevention of abuse in the exercise of it, or some security for its impartial administration. I also recollect with pleasure that during the severest trials to which the manufacturing interests have been exposed in the last two years, I have preserved domestic tranquillity without applying to the House of Commons for measures of extraordinary severity.

[Robert Peel, in a speech to the House of Commons, after resigning as Home Secretary (1 May 1827)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the changing policies of Tory governments in the period from 1820 to 1827. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

There was no evidence of any widespread working class support for programmes of reform in the 1790s. Although there was evidence of a small core of revolutionary republicanism in Britain during the period of the French wars it was much less extensive than the French believed and completely impotent in the face of ministerial determination and the tremendous swell of loyalism and anti-revolutionary sentiment that swept Britain after 1792. The radical meetings of the 1790s have usually been described as vast public rallies in favour of reform with numbers of up to 100,000 attending. The facts are otherwise and barely more than 500 people attended these events according to reliable eyewitnesses. Indeed the mass of shopkeepers and craftsmen in London tended to approve of the repressive measures taken by the government. Furthermore the London Corresponding Society was torn apart by arguments between moderates and extremists in its ranks.

[Ian Christie, a conservative academic historian, in his specialist textbook, *Wars and Revolutions: Britain 1760-1815* (1982)]

Interpretation 2

The working class challenge to the governments of Pitt and Lord Liverpool was very serious indeed. It involved hundreds of thousands of people in many parts of Britain and launched dangerous popular agitation. It had alarmed the government, terrified property holders and politicised the lower classes. The naval mutinies of 1797 were an alarming glimpse of what could happen when political discontent combined with inadequate pay and economic grievances. These were the great years of the radical press with the foundation of the *Leeds Mercury*, the *Sheffield Independent* and the *Manchester Guardian*. After 1815 the mass circulation of working class journals was even more striking; Cobbett's *Political Register* attained a circulation of 50,000 per issue. Reform petitions bombarded Parliament; there were 700 in 1817 demanding parliamentary reform. This was the most spectacular radical mobilisation of public opinion for two decades. Mass meetings attracted tens of thousands of workers as did rallies in support of Queen Caroline in 1820.

[Frank O'Gorman, a post-revisionist academic historian, in his general survey book, *The Long Eighteenth Century 1688-1832* (1997)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the threat from working class movements after 1792. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that working class movements were a serious threat to governments in the period from 1792 to 1820? [30]

END OF PAPER