



**AS HISTORY**

**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**

**SPECIMEN PAPER**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

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

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

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## 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

Answer **both** the questions on the paper

## QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

## Source A

Cardiff is essentially a well-kept and well-governed city. The visitor comes to it under the impression that he will find a city stained with the sins of its coal trade, that its streets will be dirty and ill-kept, but he soon finds his pre-conceived notions scattered before reality. The city has been much improved in recent years, and the lower elements of society are kept in check in their respective areas. There are new buildings and parks, large open spaces, substantial houses and commercial properties. The city gives the visitor the feel of urban pride and the prospect of prosperity.

[From an article entitled "Tourism in Wales - Visiting Cardiff" published in *Mayfair*, a society magazine produced in England and read mainly by the upper class (1912)]

## Source B

It is true that the houses in the area are in need of attention, but closer inspection of the general conditions leaves one with the clear view that the housing issue isn't a problem, it is rather the unhygienic practices of the people themselves and their children. On the whole I found the housing situation to be good and rents affordable and reasonable. The sanitary movement and public health reforms, together with the paternalism of the employers, have been instrumental in moderating the potential effects of industrialisation and in improving the health of the people of the area.

[Dr. F.H. Smith, a medical inspector employed by the local coal owners, writing in a report on the living conditions of the people of the Rhondda Valley (1913)]

**Source C**

In towns and villages all over the area, poverty is causing huge neglect. Mothers are having to work to scrape a living and are leaving their children at home alone or are in the care of others who are too old or too young to look after them properly. Medical officers testify that it is impossible to bring up healthy children in these conditions. In Senghenydd, many families live in wooden huts and have scarcely enough food for one meal a day. In many of the huts there are dead bodies. In one house the body of a man lay in the only room in the house which also housed the widow, her four children and a lodger, all wearing rags rather than clothes.

[From an article in the South Wales Daily News, a left-wing newspaper supportive of workers' rights (1910)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying living conditions in Wales before 1918. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

There was no firm programme of social and political reform in 1906 when the Liberals came to power. However, it quickly became clear to the New Liberals that a new political force had appeared in British politics and that a new approach was needed if they were to retain their foothold in an evolving democratic state. Lloyd George deliberately stoked up controversy in the 1909 Budget by turning on wealthy landowners, who were refusing to contribute a fair share to the costs of social welfare. By doing this, Lloyd George would ensure that the Liberal Party would be committed to radical change. A key part of his plan lay in gaining an advantage over the Labour Party. This did not involve preaching socialism or starting a class war. By attacking greedy landowners Lloyd George hoped to unit people of all classes behind himself and the Liberals.

[Martin Pugh, an academic historian and specialist in twentieth century British history, writing in a biography of Lloyd George (1988)]

**Interpretation 2**

Lloyd George was clearly always a man destined for higher office. He truly believed that he had been given the task of looking after the common man and being the champion for the silent majority. This can be seen in his role in the reforms of the government after 1906. He looked down on those who had been born into privilege and ridiculed their opinions for he believed that they did not know the real world. He was aggressive and determined to see things through. On the other hand Lloyd George was arrogant and at times quite oppressive in his behaviour.

[Henry Jones, a specialist in Welsh history, writing in a short article entitled *Lloyd George – the man and the mission* (1956)]

Historians have made different interpretations about Lloyd George. 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 Lloyd George was an effective politician?

[30]