



**AS HISTORY**

**UNIT 2**

**DEPTH STUDY 3**

**REFORM AND PROTEST IN WALES AND ENGLAND  
c.1783-1832**

**PART 1: RADICALISM AND THE FIGHT FOR  
PARLIAMENTARY REFORM c.1783-1832**

**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 3

## REFORM AND PROTEST IN WALES AND ENGLAND c.1783-1832

## PART 1: RADICALISM AND THE FIGHT FOR PARLIAMENTARY REFORM c.1783-1832

Answer **both** the questions on this paper

## QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

## Source A

SIR

Information has just been given in, that you are a holder of those detestable Shearing Frames, and I was desired by my men to write to you, and give you fair warning to pull them down, and for that purpose I desire that you will understand I am now writing to you, you will take notice that if they are not taken down by the end of next week, I shall detach one of my lieutenants with at least 300 men to destroy them, and furthermore take notice that if you give us the trouble of coming thus far, we will increase your misfortunes by burning your buildings down to ashes, and if you have the impudence to fire at any of my men, they have orders to murder you and burn all your Housing. We hope for assistance from the French Emperor in shaking off the Yoke of the Rottenest, wickedest and most Tyrannical Government that ever existed, then down comes the Hanover Tyrants and all our tyrants from the greatest to the smallest, and we will be governed by a just Republic. We will never lay down our arms till the House of Commons passes an act to put down all the machinery hurtful to the Commonality and repeal that to the Frame Breakers.

Signed by the General of the Army of Redressers

NED LUDD

Clerk

[An anonymous letter sent to a landowner in Yorkshire in 1812 and placed in government files]

## Source B

It appears that almost immediately after the suppression of the United Societies, established in different towns in this district for affecting a reform of Parliament, some of the most violent members associated together, in a private and clandestine manner. At these meetings, it is supposed to have become a question for deliberation, whether a change in the representation might not be effected without the intervention of Parliament, and a project appears to have been communicated to them by a Mr Oliver. This person is said to have represented to these credulous men, that all the people in the Metropolis were favourable to a complete change in the government. and that it was absolutely settled, that on the night of the 8<sup>th</sup> June a general rising would take place.

[From a newspaper *The Leeds Mercury*, on 14th June 1817, commenting on the Derbyshire Uprising]

**Source C**

In ten minutes from the commencement of the havoc, the field was an open and almost deserted space. The sun looked down through a sultry and motionless air. The hustings remained, with a few broken or hewed flag-staves erect, and a torn and gashed banner or two drooping; whilst over the whole field, were strewed caps, bonnets, hats, shawl, and shoes, and other parts of male and female dress; trampled, torn and bloody. The yeomanry had dismounted – some were easing their horses' girths, others adjusting their accoutrements; and some were wiping their sabres. Several mounds of human beings still remained where they had fallen, crushed down and smothered. Some of these were still groaning – others with staring eyes, were gasping for breath, and others would never breathe more. All was silent save those low sounds, and the occasional snorting and pawing of steeds. Persons might sometimes be noticed peeping from attics and over the tall ridgings of houses, but they quickly withdrew, as if fearful of being observed, or unable to sustain the full gaze, of a scene so hideous and abhorrent.

[From the radical activist Samuel Bamford's *Passages in the Life of a Radical*, published in 1844.  
In this book, Bamford is recalling the immediate aftermath of  
the Peterloo Massacre in 1819]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying popular protest in the period 1812-1822. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

The Reform Act created a radically different electoral landscape. Not only did the number of voters increase (in Scotland's case, more than thirteenfold), but with the weakening of patron control, the number of elections that went to a poll also rose sharply. In the first general election held under the new system in 1832, over 43,000 Scots were able to cast their votes. So, at the next elections in 1835, were more than 9,000 Welshmen. Up to a point, then, a representative system which had been weighted in favour of England, in favour of the south, and in favour of the centrifugal forces of local interests and individual electoral patrons, had been replaced by one more uniformly British, more closely supervised by the state, and considerably more democratic. The most obvious abuses and anomalies had been swept away, and social groups and regions that contributed massively to Britain's wealth but had previously lacked direct representation now gained it. By European standards, the new British electorate of 656,000 was very large indeed, bearing in mind that Austria, Denmark, Russia and Greece still had no popularly elected national legislative assemblies at all. A much bigger proportion of men could now vote in Britain than in France, Spain, Belgium or the Netherlands.

[Linda Colley, an academic historian and specialist in eighteenth century British history, writing in a textbook, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1701-1837* (1992)]

**Interpretation 2**

The position of the establishment was strengthened by political reform. The 1832 Reform Act may have extended the vote but it did so in a circumspect manner. The 'concessions' were to the urban middle class and in rural areas the power of the landowner could well have been increased. The Chandos clause seems to have helped the Tories in the counties though its effects were seldom decisive. Plenty of freeholders were just as dependent on Tory landowners as any tenant-at-will. Where county constituencies were uncontested – sixty per cent were uncontested in 1847 – and landowners agreed on candidates, the 1832 Act was irrelevant. Even so, few of the new voters wanted to challenge the landed aristocracy. The middle class remained deferential within limits. The Act had not dethroned land and made industry supreme.

[Richard Brown, a specialist in nineteenth century British history, writing in a textbook *Change and Continuity in British Society 1800-50* (1987)]

Historians have made different interpretations of the Reform Act of 1832. 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 the 1832 Reform Act was a conservative measure?

[30]