



**GCE A LEVEL – NEW**

1100U40-1



**HISTORY – A2 unit 4  
DEPTH STUDY 4  
Politics and Society in Wales and England  
c.1900-1939**

**Part 2: Economic and Social Challenges in  
Wales and England c.1918-1939**

FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2017 – MORNING

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 **Question 1** and **either Question 2 or 3**.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

You are advised to spend up to 60 minutes on Question 1 and up to 45 minutes on either Question 2 or 3.

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.

In your answers, you should use knowledge and understanding gained from your study of Unit 2 (AS) where appropriate.

**UNIT 4****DEPTH STUDY 4****Politics and Society in Wales and England c.1900-1939****Part 2: Economic and Social Challenges in Wales and England c.1918-1939**

**Answer question 1 and either question 2 or 3.**

**QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)**

Study the following sources and answer the question that follows.

**Source A**

The recent hunger marches have highlighted a clear divide within society. Attempts have been made to ban such marches rather than address the underlying issues which plague our population at every turn. There have been pitched battles between the police and the marchers and we have witnessed scenes of unparalleled brutality by mounted police, drawing their batons and urging their horses to trample the demonstrators. The demonstrators shout 'Struggle or Starve' and 'Down with the Means Test' and as such these marches are gaining support. The National Unemployed Workers Movement is intent on keeping up its fully justified programme of marches and demonstrations against local Public Assistance Committees and its planned 'Invasion of Westminster' this month despite government calls for them to cease their actions.

[From a report in the *Manchester Evening News*, a left-wing newspaper supportive of the plight of the unemployed (October 1932)]

**Source B**

I used to go every Saturday morning to the magistrate court in Pontypool, South Wales, where I listened to the most extraordinary cases. Man after man would shuffle into the dock, to hear the charge - "Stealing a quantity of coal to the value of one shilling". The "criminal" was an unemployed miner who had gone to a railway siding where hundreds of rusting trucks were standing, piled high with coal for which there was no market. He had taken a quantity of coal, and was running home with it, to light a fire in his empty grate for his wife and children, when he had been arrested. Ridiculous fines would be imposed on these unhappy men, which of course they could not pay because of the effects of the means testing. In default they trooped off to Cardiff prison week after week. It was in revolt against this state of things that I turned to Fascism, which was to me, as to many others, basically an economic belief.

[Jeffrey Hamm, a leading member of the British Union of Fascists, writing in his private papers (1936)]

**Source C**

When people live on the dole for years at a time they grow used to it, and drawing the dole, though it remains unpleasant, ceases to be shameful. In the back streets of Wigan and Barnsley I saw every kind of privation, but I probably saw much less conscious misery than I would have seen ten years ago. The people have grasped that unemployment is a thing they cannot help. It is not only Alf Smith who is out of work now; Bert Jones is out of work as well, and both of them have been 'out' for years. It makes a great deal of difference when things are the same for everybody. So you have a whole population settling down to a lifetime on the Public Assistance Committee. And what I think is admirable, perhaps even hopeful, is that they have managed to do it without going spiritually to pieces. Life is still fairly normal. Families are impoverished, but the family system has not broken up. The people are in effect living a reduced version of their former lives. Instead of raging against their destiny, they have made things tolerable by lowering their standards.

[George Orwell, an author and social commentator, writing in his survey of Britain, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying unemployment during the 1930s. [30]

**Answer either question 2 or question 3****Either,**

2. How far do you agree that the collapse of Lloyd George's Coalition in 1922 was the most important political change between 1918 and 1939? [30]

**Or,**

3. To what extent was the experience of women between 1919 and 1939 mainly one of hardship? [30]

**END OF PAPER**