



## GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U40-1



S18-2100U40-1

## 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**

TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018 – 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 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 questions.*

**QUESTION 1**

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

**Source A**

I can tell the Liberals what will make this new Independent Labour Party a great and sweeping force in this country – a force that will sweep away Liberalism amongst other things. It is if we do nothing to cope seriously with the social conditions of the people, to remove the national degradation of slums, the widespread poverty and destitution in a land glittering with wealth. If we do not face these issues and condemn the waste of our national resources in creating armaments, provide an honourable sustenance for our deserving old age, and attack the unvirtuous House of Lords, then there will be a real cry from the land for a new party, and many of us here in this room would join in that cry. But if a Liberal government tackled these issues, then the Independent Labour Party will call in vain upon the working men of Britain to desert the Liberalism that is so gallantly fighting to rid the land of the wrongs that have oppressed those who work in it.

[David Lloyd George, a government minister and President of the Board of Trade, in a speech to the leading members of the Liberal Party in Cardiff (1906)]

## Source B



[A cartoon from *Punch*, a satirical publication, called *Rich Fare*, commenting on the budget of 1909. The accompanying caption says... “*The Giant Lloyd-Gorgibuster: Fe Fi Fo Fat, I smell the blood of a plutocrat; be he alive or be he dead, I’ll grind his bones to make my bread.*”]

## Source C

Last night a highly organised detachment of Suffragettes carried out their threat to execute a sustained window smashing campaign in the main streets of west London. For fifteen or twenty minutes all that could be heard was the smashing of windows from one street to the next. These attacks were co-ordinated and occurred at the same time across various streets and boroughs and show clearly the depths to which these women will go. They occurred at one of the busiest times of the day, half an hour before the shops were due to close for the evening. Suddenly, women who had previously been believed to be innocent shoppers brought forth from their bags, hammers, stones and sticks and proceeded to attack the windows of the closest shop available. Gallant by-standers risked their lives by attempting to subdue the mob but such was their intent and ferocity they were themselves in fear for their lives and could do nothing to prevent substantial and costly damage.

[An editorial comment in the *Daily Telegraph*, a newspaper which traditionally supported the government (1912)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying political developments in Wales and England 1906-1912. [30]

## QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

### Interpretation 1

From 1900-1914 Britain was racked by a series of strikes that were caused by worker militancy and noted for their refusal to follow the requests of union leaders. This militancy shook the British capitalist state to its foundations and forced the Liberal government to increasingly turn to military means in an attempt to halt the strikes. While the most famous examples of government militancy was the despatching of two warships up the River Mersey following the 1911 strike of seamen, there are also plenty of other examples such as the use of troops during the Llanelli rail strike of 1911 in an attempt to keep scab trains operating. This period saw worker militancy break out of the boundaries of bourgeois legality and begin to start to develop towards a more critical consciousness which questioned the very basis of capitalist rule. This was the political voice of the workers being heard for the first time, rejecting their political imprisonment and calling for a massive change in society that would address the class divide and demand more equality and freedom.

[Robert Minor, a Marxist historian, writing in the American magazine, *The Daily Worker*, which supported the American Communist Party (1950)]

### Interpretation 2

There is still room for doubt about the causes of the strikes and conflicts that took place before 1914, especially since so little is known of many of them. However it seems that a strong case can be made out for the wave of discontent having primarily economic origins. There was a clear call for improvement in the lives and treatment of the workers as they were clearly suffering economic hardship. Admittedly there was an unusual amount of violence in the strikes and conflicts of the period but this may well have been due to government tactics. On several occasions the Home Secretary waived the normal rules and sent troops to disputes when the local authorities had not requested assistance. Also there was a lack of understanding on behalf of the employers who were looking for an excuse to crush the unions. It was for this reason that economic causes were not really considered enough at the time and the authorities and employers did not comprehend that this was at the forefront of the reasons for the disputes and strikes.

[Robert Pearce, an academic historian, writing in his general A level textbook, *Britain: Industrial Relations and the Economy 1900-1939* (1994)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the causes and extent of industrial conflict. 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 economic reasons were mainly responsible for industrial conflict in the period 1900-1914? [30]

**END OF PAPER**