



A-level HISTORY

Component 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Friday 6 June 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2S.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the 'Daily Mirror', a left-wing popular newspaper, 6 June 1963. This article appeared on the newspaper's front page under the headline: 'The Big Lie'.

War Minister, John Profumo, caused a political sensation last night by resigning from the Government. In a dramatic letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Profumo admitted that he lied to the Commons about his association with red-haired model Christine Keeler. This admission finally clears away the cloud of rumour and suspicion which has hung over the political scene for more than three months. The 'Daily Mirror' does not kick a man when he is down, but Mr Profumo, who married a beautiful and pleasant woman, is now truly down and out. God knows he was never a good minister: it seems now that he is not a very important man. But there is guilt in many a human heart, and skeletons in many cupboards. The question is: what the hell is going on in this country? All power corrupts – and the Tories have been in power for nearly twelve years. They are certainly experiencing their full quota of fallen idols.

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Source B

From the book 'Scandal 63' published in September 1963. This was written by a group of investigative journalists who worked at 'The Sunday Times', a right-wing establishment newspaper.

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Source B argues that the Labour Party feared that the Profumo Affair had actually led to public sympathy for Macmillan.

Source C

From a speech by Harold Wilson to 2000 Labour supporters at Birmingham Town Hall, January 1964. Wilson was launching the Labour Party's election campaign.

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Source C is Wilson arguing that Labour is best equipped for the new 'jet-age'.

0	1
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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the political situation in 1963/64.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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'The trade unions were responsible for the economic and industrial failures of Heath's government in the years 1970 to 1974.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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'Britain became a backward-looking and less tolerant society in the years 1987 to 1997.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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How successful was Tony Blair's foreign policy in the years 1997 to 2007?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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