



AS HISTORY

Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Component 2M Society in Crisis, 1906–1929

Monday 19 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/2M.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From an article, 'The Commercial Future of Great Britain', published in 'The Times' newspaper, February 1911. The article compares the British economy with that of the USA and Germany.

The profound truth is that our prosperity is based upon our trade. Are we to retain that prosperity? Or are we to give up, in favour of foreign nations, the proud position which, partly by good fortune and partly due to our energy and enterprise, we have been successful in achieving? The immediate outlook for British trade is fortunately hopeful. We have a series of reports from engineering firms which show evidence of an improvement in Britain's industrial outlook and of confidence in prospects for future years. But we need serious reflection on the promotion of our trade. With such rivals as Germany and the USA, we must either go forward or be left behind in the race.

5

Source B

From a speech in a parliamentary debate on the state of the economy by Harold Smith, Conservative MP for Warrington, in the North West of England, February 1912.

In terms of the cotton trade, we import from Germany two and a half times as many finished goods as we export; from France we import more than we send. Even with Japan, which we would never have dreamt we would compete with, we are now a day-to-day competitor in terms of our cotton exports. With iron and steel, where not many years ago we led the world, we are now third. Many of our blast furnaces have lately had to be blown out and some steel works are now closed. Many of our iron works are running short of time. Many of our workers, both skilled and unskilled, are unemployed and there is no provision for them.

5

0	1
---	---

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the economic position of Britain in the years before the First World War?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0	2
---	---

'The popularity of Lloyd George was the main reason for the success of the coalition in the 1918 election.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
---	---

'There was much social and cultural change in Britain in the 1920s.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

