

History A

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Unit **F961/02**: British History Period Studies. Option B: Modern 1783-1994

Mark Scheme for June 2011

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Distribution of marks for each level that reflects the Unit's AOs and corresponds to the UMS

2 answers: each maximum mark 50.

	A01a	A01b
IA	21-24	24-26
IB	18-20	22-23
II	16-17	19-21
III	14-15	16-18
IV	12-13	13-15
V	9-11	11-12
VI	4-8	6-10
VII	0-3	0-5

Notes:

- (i) Allocate marks to the most appropriate level for each AO.
- (ii) If several marks are available in a box, work from the top mark down until the best fit has been found.
- (iii) Many answers will not fall at the same level for each AO.
- (iv) Analysis refers to developed explanations; evaluation refers to the argued weighing up/assessment of factors in relation to their significance in explaining an issue or in explaining linkages between different factors.

AOs	AO1a	AO1b
Total mark for each question = 50	Recall, select and deploy historical knowledge appropriately, and communicate knowledge and understanding of history in a clear and effective manner.	Demonstrate understanding of the past through explanation, analysis and arriving at substantiated judgements of: - key concepts such as causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context; - the relationships between key features and characteristics of the periods studied
Level IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a wide range of accurate, detailed and relevant evidence • Accurate and confident use of appropriate historical terminology • Answer is clearly structured and coherent; communicates accurately and legibly <p style="text-align: center;">21-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and accurate understanding of key concepts relevant to analysis and to the topic • Clear and accurate understanding of the significance of issues in their historical context • Answer is consistently and relevantly analytical with developed and substantiated explanations, some of which may be unexpected • The argument evaluates a range of relevant factors and reaches clearly substantiated judgements about relative importance and/or links. <p style="text-align: center;">24-26</p>
Level IB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses accurate, detailed and relevant evidence • Accurate use of a range of appropriate historical terminology • Answer is clearly structured and mostly coherent; writes accurately and legibly <p style="text-align: center;">18-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and accurate understanding of most key concepts relevant to analysis and to the topic • Answer is mostly consistently and relevantly analytical with mostly developed and substantiated explanations • Clear understanding of the significance of issues in their historical context. • Substantiated judgements about relative importance of and/or links between factors will be made but quality of explanation in support may not be consistently high. <p style="text-align: center;">22-23</p>
Level II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses mostly accurate, detailed and relevant evidence which demonstrates a competent command of the topic • Generally accurate use of historical terminology • Answer is structured and mostly coherent; writing is legible and communication is generally clear <p style="text-align: center;">16-17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly clear and accurate understanding of many key concepts relevant to analysis and to the topic • Clear understanding of the significance of most relevant issues in their historical context • Much of the answer is relevantly analytical and substantiated with detailed evidence but there may be some description • The analysis of factors and/ or issues provides some judgements about relative importance and/or linkages. <p style="text-align: center;">19-21</p>

AOs	AO1a	AO1b
Level III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses accurate and relevant evidence which demonstrates some command of the topic but there may be some inaccuracy • Answer includes relevant historical terminology but this may not be extensive or always accurately used • Most of the answer is organised and structured; the answer is mostly legible and clearly communicated <p style="text-align: center;">14-15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some/uneven understanding of key concepts relevant to analysis and of concepts relevant to their historical context • Answers may be a mixture of analysis and explanation but also simple description of relevant material and narrative of relevant events OR answers may provide more consistent analysis but the quality will be uneven and its support often general or thin. • Answer considers a number of factors but with very little evaluation of importance or linkages between factors/issues • Points made about importance or about developments in the context of the period will often be little more than assertions and descriptions <p style="text-align: center;">16-18</p>
Level IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is deployment of relevant knowledge but level/accuracy of detail will vary; there may be some evidence that is tangential or irrelevant. • Some unclear and/or under-developed and/or disorganised sections; mostly satisfactory level of communication. <p style="text-align: center;">12-13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of key concepts relevant to analysis and the topic is variable but in general is satisfactory. • Limited and patchy understanding of a few relevant issues in their historical context. • Answer may be largely descriptive/ narratives of events and links between this and analytical comments will typically be weak or unexplained OR answers will mix passages of descriptive material with occasional explained analysis. • Limited points made about importance/links or about developments in the context of the period will be little more than assertions and descriptions <p style="text-align: center;">13-15</p>
Level V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some relevant accurate historical knowledge deployed: this may be generalised and patchy. There may be inaccuracies and irrelevant material also • Some accurate use of relevant historical terminology but often inaccurate/ inappropriate use • Often unclear and disorganised sections; writing will often be clear if basic but there may be some illegibility and weak prose where the sense is not clear or obvious <p style="text-align: center;">9-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General and sometimes inaccurate understanding of key concepts relevant to analysis and of concepts relevant to the topic • General or weak understanding of the significance of most relevant issues in their historical context • Attempts at analysis will be weak or generalised, based on plausible but unsubstantiated points or points with very general or inappropriate substantiation OR there may be a relevant but patchy description of events/developments coupled with judgements that are no more than assertions • There will be some understanding of the question but answers may focus on the topic not address the focus of the question <p style="text-align: center;">11-12</p>

AOs	AO1a	AO1b
Level VI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of relevant evidence will be limited; there will be much irrelevance and inaccuracy • Answer may have little organisation or structure; weak use of English and poor organisation <p style="text-align: center;">4-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little understanding of key concepts • Very limited understanding of the topic or of the question's requirements • Limited explanation will be very brief/fragmentary • The answer will be characterised by generalised assertion and/or description/narratives, often brief <p style="text-align: center;">6-10</p>
Level VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No understanding of the topic or of the question's requirements; little relevant and accurate knowledge • Very fragmentary and disorganised response; very poor use of English and some incoherence <p style="text-align: center;">0-3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No understanding of key concepts or historical developments. • No valid explanations • Typically very brief and very descriptive answer <p style="text-align: center;">0-5</p>

From Pitt to Peel 1783-1846**1 'The reform of finance and administration was the most important reason for Pitt's domination of politics from 1783 to 1793?' How far do you agree?**

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates will need to assess the role of finance and administration in ensuring the dominance of Pitt. Candidates may consider the success of his domestic policy in the 1780s which saw economic and financial recovery. There might be mention of the Sinking Fund, Eden Trade Treaty, reform of customs and excise, East India reform. Window taxes and other innovations when discussing reform of finance and administration. Some may argue that it was the support of George III, particularly in the 1784 election and the Regency Crisis of 1788 that was important. The king played an important role through patronage, control of the frequency of elections and his own distaste for the Whigs, particularly Fox and North. The partnership between Pitt and George should not be understated. It might also be noted that once the king withdrew support Pitt soon fell. His use of repression in the 1790s, the division and weakness of the Whig opposition, made worse by splits over the French Revolution and Pitt's mastery of parliamentary business and debate may also be considered as factors.

2 How effectively did Lord Liverpool's government handle the radical challenge in the period from 1812 to 1822?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. There was a wide ranging radical challenge in this period and candidates will need to assess how effective the government was in handling it. Some answers may look at each of the challenges individually, whilst others will take a more thematic approach. At Level III candidates are likely to simply list the successes and failures of the government, whilst answers in the higher levels will make judgements about the degree of effectiveness. Candidates might assess the effectiveness of the measures used by the government to deal with the challenge and this may range from the various acts of parliament, such as the Black Acts of 1819, the suspension of Habeas Corpus and the new Seditious Meetings Bill to the use of the yeomanry at Peterloo. Some may argue that the government was not very effective at dealing with the threat and point to the prolonged outbreak of Luddite violence and argue that it only declined because of an improvement in the economic conditions. Candidates might also discuss the handling of the economy as a means of controlling the radical challenge and it might be argued that the Corn Laws provoked rather than helped, suggesting the government was not effective. The use of spies and agent provocateurs might also be considered, but again their effectiveness might be balanced against the small numbers involved in events such as the March of the Blanketeers. Some answers might consider the impact of events such as Peterloo and argue that the sympathy for the protestors suggests that the government was not effective, although others might argue that its dispersal shows the government was effective. The ease with which the Cato St. Conspiracy was dealt with, using spies, might lead some to conclude that ultimately the government was very effective, although others might argue that decline was inevitable once prosperity returned. However, some might argue that the failure of the radical activity to generate a serious challenge suggests that the government was effective.

3 How far did the terms of the Great Reform Act satisfy the supporters of parliamentary reform in 1832?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates will need to identify the supporters of reform. It must be remembered that the government was largely aristocratic and that they did not want to achieve democracy and therefore some groups may well be disappointed. Some of the government had been advocates of

reform for many years and they wished to preserve the basis of support for the constitution and to eliminate, or greatly reduce aspects of the electoral system that brought it into disrepute. They wished to conciliate the middle classes and wanted to achieve a better representation of the property and intelligence of the country. It might be argued that the results of the act in practice represented partial fulfilment. In terms of changes to property qualifications candidates might discuss £10 yearly rent in Boroughs and £10 lodgers, whereas in Counties they might discuss £10 copyholders, £50 tenants, £10 long leaseholders etc. The redistribution of seats went some way to correct the imbalance between county and borough members, the important newer towns gained seats and many smaller boroughs lost MPs or returned only one. The number of voters added was limited. Many of the parliamentary supporters of reform were satisfied as support for the constitution had been broadened and the worst aspects of the system that brought it into disrepute had been removed. However, this might be balanced against corruption did not completely disappear, although the number of very corrupt constituencies did. They did broaden support for the system, Chartism failed to attract the more strenuous reformers of 1831-2, the existing order was strengthened and the aristocracy continued to dominate. However, for other groups the limited nature of the changes could be used to argue that they were disappointed and this was reflected in the emergence of Chartism.

Liberals and Conservatives 1846-1895

4 How important was Palmerston in the emergence of the Liberal party by 1868?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. There are many reasons that candidates may consider, but at the higher levels there must be at least a good paragraph on the named factor even if answers conclude that Palmerston's role was not important. It is likely that many will point to the support given to the Whigs by radicals such as Cobden and Bright, unity over Italian Unification in 1859, common support for free trade, the success of Gladstone's budgets, the fact that the public trusted the party over finance, a popular foreign policy under Palmerston and the abandonment of the aristocratic Whiggish image associated with Grey and Melbourne in the 1830s. This was important as the party had gained key Peelites, becoming a progressive party with increasingly popular ideas and a willingness to undertake reform. The popularity of its foreign policy might be considered and Palmerston ensured it was well advocated. There might also be mention of the disarray of the Conservative party and the resultant incentive to create a united party. There might be some mention of the role of the new, daily provincial press, which consistently advocated civil and religious liberty and the belief in the idea of progress. This was reflected in increased support in the boroughs. The non-conformists also wanted a party that would adopt their progressive policies in education, politics and religion. From their militant religious outlook came their adoption of 'good causes' that gave the liberals their dynamic quality. The men who noticed the emergence of these groups and the need to bind them to the newly found Liberal party in the Commons were Gladstone and Bright. Gladstone's 1864 speech was important and resulted in him being hailed the 'People's William', although some have seen his role as less important than Palmerston and Russell. The party was seen as the party of business sense, moral integrity and administrative efficiency. However, it is possible that some may argue it was little more than a series of fragile coalitions or ambitious men doing deals to get themselves into power. The party had come together to destroy Derby's administration and wanted to stay in power.

5 To what extent did Disraeli's foreign and imperial policies achieve their aims?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates should identify the aims of his foreign policy. He used foreign policy to exploit the failings of Gladstone's first ministry and his attacks on Gladstone's apparent weakness over the Alabama Incident and the Black Sea Clauses may be linked to the successful winning of

electoral support in 1874. This might be linked to his 1872 speeches where he claimed that he would uphold British interests. He was also successful in challenging Russia in the Eastern Question and it is likely that many answers will focus on the success of the Congress of Berlin and the gains made. However, having claimed that he would uphold British interests in 1872 he failed to do this throughout the ministry and he was much condemned by Gladstone in his anti-Beaconsfieldism campaign. With imperial policies Disraeli was able to start the process of linking the Conservative party with the upholding and expansion of Empire which had been part of his speeches and they might make reference to South Africa, Egypt(including Suez), India and Afghanistan. The creation of Victoria as Empress of India achieved its aim and gained Disraeli much credit. Candidates might conclude that he appeared to have achieved his aims in the early part of the period, but they came back to haunt him at the end and play a significant role in the electoral defeat of 1880.

6 How successful were Gladstone's Irish policies?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates may argue that during his time in office he tried to address all the main aspects of the Irish problem, but with varying degrees of success. Many may argue that his most obvious failure was in Home Rule, not only because it failed to pass but also split the Liberal party. Candidates might also suggest that the evidence of unrest in Ireland during this period is further evidence of the failings of his policy and point in particular to events such as the Phoenix Park murders. However, against this he was able to disestablish the Irish Church and that this pleased the Irish Catholic bishops, but it did little to pacify the rest of the population. He also failed to get his Irish University Reform Bill passed which would have established a non-denominational state university system. When dealing with the Land problem the 1870 Land Act did give some protection to tenants and began the process of land transference, which by 1914, had done much to solve the land question. However, this success might be balanced against its impact on English landowning class who were frightened by the attack on property rights. The success of the 1881 Land Act might be considered and candidates might argue that despite the generous terms which made stable tenant farming possible, it did not solve the problems of rent arrears and it was accompanied by a Coercion Act, which increased unrest, evictions, boycotts and violence. There might be some discussion of his handling of Parnell.

Foreign and Imperial Policies 1856-1914

7 'The role of individuals was the most important reason for Britain obtaining possessions in Africa.' How far do you agree?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. At the higher levels candidates must write at least a good paragraph on the named factor even if they conclude that it was not important. Individuals that might be considered include Rhodes, Chamberlain, Carnarvon and Frere and this might be linked to the desire for personal gain. However, many candidates are likely to argue that trading developments were at the forefront of imperial growth in this period and use examples from South Africa and Egypt to support their arguments. It would also be valid to argue that the protection of the Indian trade routes would explain the involvement in South Africa, the East African coast and in protecting the Suez Canal post 1875, controlling the shares the acquisition of Egypt from 1882, involvement in the Sudan in 1885 and 1898, Zanzibar 1899 and the Fashoda incident with France in 1898 over the White Nile. Trade also had a large impact on individuals and they might point to Cecil Rhodes with the Cape to Cairo railway, which was clearly for profit. The discovery of gold and diamonds, clear economic interests, in the Transvaal was important. Coffee and Tea plantations in East Africa also became economically important in the later period. However, this should be balanced against other factors such as strategic advantage, religious and humanitarian motives, political and

jingoistic considerations. The importance of strategic factors could be stressed in the need to limit German involvement in East Africa and French involvement in North and West Africa. Pre 1886 the strategic interests of Lord Carnarvon and Bartle Frere were important. Some may argue that it is impossible to differentiate between economic and strategic motives where North East, East and Southern Africa are concerned. Some may conclude that strategic issues were often determined by economic motives, although there were exceptions.

8 How much support was there for imperialism from 1880 to 1902?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. The party that dominated politics in this period was the pro-Empire Conservatives. Candidates could support this with reference to the Khaki election of 1900, where their victory, an overall majority of 268 was, in part, the result of patriotic fervour in the earlier part of the Boer War. Even at the end of the war some might argue that imperialism still retained considerable support; British invincibility did remain intact and some may argue that this was reinforced by music hall jingoism and added to the idea that 'the sun never set on the Empire'. Joe Chamberlain had been able to build a new career in the Conservative party on the basis of popular imperialism, as did Curzon. However, this might be balanced by a consideration of the problems that the small force of Boers had created for the might of the British army and the brutal use of concentration camps also damaged prestige and lessened support. There was questioning of Chamberlain's imperial vision and the social and medical problems of recruitment brought demands for a concentration on domestic issues. After Gladstone, the Liberal leader Lord Rosebery realised the political importance of the Empire. However, candidates could balance this by looking at the 1880 election which Disraeli lost largely due to Gladstone's anti-Imperial campaign. Gladstone in turn was in trouble by 1885 over Egypt and especially for his failure to send sufficient troops to save General Gordon in his attempts to defend Khartoum from the attacks by the Mahdi. After 1900 the Boer War did not aid the Conservatives. Some candidates may argue that the Empire was always politically controversial and divisive. Whether the working class were responsive to imperialism was far from certain, especially as the Empire could be portrayed as wasteful when social reform was a more pressing issue. It could be argued that the popular culture surrounding imperial expansion and policies suggests that it was a popular policy and candidates might point to some of the Music Hall songs, popular literature and also religious concerns, such as some of the late Victorian hymns or missionary activity which had captured the public imagination.

9 'The growing threat of Germany was the most important reason for the improvement in Anglo-French relations in the period between 1902 and 1911' How far do you agree?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. At the top levels candidates will need to write at least a good paragraph on the named factor even if they conclude that this was not the most important factor. There are a number of reasons that might be considered for the improvement in Anglo-French relations; this might include the success of Edward VII visit to France and the subsequent Entente. There might also be mention of the resolution of colonial issues following Fashoda. There was also concern that the British alliance with Japan and French with Russia might bring the nations into conflict and there was a desire to avoid it. The growing threat of Germany was an issue and both nations saw that they had concerns in common, hence the military talks. Some might argue that for Britain the naval challenge was of particular concern, but that France was concerned by the land forces. Germany did test the Entente with the Moroccan crises and this served only to bring the countries closer together. There might be some consideration of how improved relations with France might also help improve British relations with Russia, which would help solve some of the imperial problems. Britain could not afford to be isolated and did not want an agreement with Germany because of the

terms. It might be noted that Britain did try and argue that there was no reason why relations with both could not be good.

Domestic Issues 1918-1951

10 Assess the progress made by the Labour party between 1918 and 1931.

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates might argue that because the governments held power for such a short period of time that little progress had been made. However, this might be balanced against the fact both were minority governments and in 1924 particularly it was a remarkable achievement for such a new party to be in office and this could be linked to their growth since the war. Candidates might argue that it was successful in giving the party experience of government. Some might suggest that in the circumstances they were never going to achieve a large measure of reform, but others might suggest that they were a particular disappointment to the left wing. However, they did develop a respectable image and this helped to secure middle class support and dispel many myths surrounding them. There might be some consideration of the reforms passed and it is likely that many will point to the positive housing measures. There may be some focus on the negative aspects of the Zinoviev and Campbell affairs and the damage of the supposed links to communism. Labour's handling of the economic crisis might feature largely in many answers and it might be concluded that the government failed and they showed an inability to handle serious problems. However, candidates might balance this against their minority position and the scale of the problem. There might also be some mention of the divisions that the economic crisis created and the resultant 'treachery' of Macdonald.

11 To what extent did the economy recover between 1931 and 1939?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. It is likely that there will be some discussion of the major policies brought in and answers may conclude that the impact of many, such as the Special Areas Act or the rationalisation programme for Iron and Steel did little to create jobs or recovery. However, this might be balanced against the value of low interest rates and the role they played in providing cheap money for investment, the abandonment of the Gold Standard and the provision of ideal conditions for recovery. However, candidates should balance this against other factors; this might include the natural recovery of the trade cycle, rearmament necessitated by the foreign situation and the actions of private industry. Many may argue that the recovery was consumer driven and link this to the growth in the consumer and new industries. There might be some consideration of the low cost of living and how this provided money for those in employment to purchase the new goods. At the very highest level some might argue that there was no recovery in some areas as there had been no slump. They might argue that the depression had been a regional affair, closely linked to those areas dependent on the old industries. There was no depression in the Home Counties and the Thames Valley and the increase in house building, cars and domestic products might allow some candidates to argue that the government had little impact in these areas.

12 'The achievements of the Labour governments of 1945 to 1951 were limited.' How far do you agree?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates might set the achievements against the desires of many committed socialists or against the problems and difficulties they faced or against expectations. It might be argued that Attlee's government accomplished a modest redistribution of wealth through fiscal policy and therefore improved social conditions, there was also full employment and improved living standards for the working class this could be contrasted with the feeling of relative deprivation among the middle class. It might be argued that they suffered the more

austerity with food shortages and rationing than during the war. There might be consideration of the US loan of 1946, problems with the balance of payments and the value of the pound and how they impacted on the recovery. There might also be consideration of the impact of the Korean War on the recovery. In considering social conditions it is likely that many will focus on issues such as the NHS and education opportunities. In considering social conditions candidates might refer to the National Insurance Act, the industrial Injuries Act and National Assistance Act and Family Allowance Act. Some historians have argued that these measures were so significant that they should be seen as achieving a social revolution, suggesting they were not limited. There might also be a discussion as to whether the nationalisation programme was successful in improving economic conditions. However, this might be balanced against the economic problems they faced such as debts, the value of the pound and argue that even though there was some recovery it was not enough to meet expectations and link this to the dollar gap and the defence spending associated with the Cold War.

Foreign and Imperial Policies 1945-1990

13 How successful was British foreign policy from 1945 to 1964?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. There are a large number of areas that candidates might consider, but it is not expected that they will deal with all, what matters is the quality of analysis. Candidates might choose to approach this by either looking at themes or their relationship with individual countries or the EEC. If they take the latter approach it is likely that they will focus on Britain's relationship with the USA and the USSR. Some might consider how successful Britain was in maintaining her great power status and they might mention the success in retaining their place on the Security Council. The desire to maintain and develop the relationship with the USA might be seen as a success, but after Suez this might be seen as less successful. There might be consideration of how successful Britain was in the Cold War and issues such as the development of NATO, the Berlin Airlift and the Korean War might be considered. The development of closer relations with the US might be analysed and some might argue that this was a recognition of Britain's decline and that policy was dictated by the US and should therefore be seen as less successful whilst others might argue that by having such a close relationship it allowed Britain to retain her status. There might be consideration of the handling of both the Palestine question and the Suez Crisis, neither of which can be seen as very successful. In discussing the EEC there might be mention of the failure to join the Iron and Steel Community in 1951, Eden's rejection of membership and Macmillan's attitude and the problem of de Gaulle.

14 Assess the reasons why there was a continuing debate about nuclear weapons in Britain in this period.

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates should consider a variety of reasons why Britain built and maintained independent nuclear weapons before reaching a conclusion. Candidates may consider the desire to have an independent nuclear weapons policy to avoid dependence upon the USA following her marginalisation over the Manhattan project. This may be seen as giving Britain a bargaining point with the USA. The development of the Cold War and the fear generated by the fact that Britain was within range of USSR bombers added to the desire to have an independent nuclear weapon. Candidates might also consider the influence of budgets as by 1954-5 the cost of rearmament was approaching the levels at the end of the Second World War, the purchase of Skybolt was also made out of economic necessity as it prolonged the life of the V bombers and could be used with Britain's own nuclear warheads, thus maintaining independence. The development of Polaris may also be considered, even under Labour only one out of the five ordered Polaris was cancelled. One lesson of Suez was the need to retain an independent nuclear deterrent capability as

this would allow Britain to influence US defence and foreign policy formulation. However, in the period 1964-79 there was the need to control defence spending. Labour's 1964 campaign had specifically mentioned this, but once in power there was little change. Developments under Thatcher saw a modernisation of weapons. There might be discussion of popular reaction through issues such as Greenham Common and the role of CND.

15 Assess the reasons for British decolonisation after 1945.

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Candidates may consider the pressure from colonial national movements such as the Gold Coast Riots in 1950, the Quit India Movement and the Mau Mau in Kenya. This also had an economic impact, that Britain could not handle after the war, and will provide candidates with opportunities to link together factors. Although there were many attempts to foster local elites and economies this strategy usually involved the acceptance of independence as a goal that tended to come sooner rather than later. This could be seen as the main reason for decolonisation by the 1950s. Many candidates may point to the economic difficulties created by the war and the political changes in Britain that the war had brought about as evidence, they may even suggest that dependence on the USA financially, that resulted from the war, was a further reason. Economic difficulties were serious as a result of the war, military and defence costs were crippling, but this was complicated by the belief that the Empire was less the problem than part of the solution to her economic difficulties as a closed imperial economy could guarantee markets, cheap food and raw materials. In order to overcome the financial problems at the end of the war Britain was heavily dependent upon the USA and they were opposed to colonialism and put pressure on Britain to abandon her Empire, in India in 1947, Palestine in 1948 and in 1956 to abandon Egypt and Suez. It was difficult for Britain to resist this unless they played the Cold War card, as they did in Malaysia. This could be seen as the main reason for decolonisation by the 1950s. Some candidates may also argue that political change in the United Kingdom was particularly important, especially the attitudes of the political parties, originally united in resisting decolonisation this outlook had changed. Talk centred on managing decolonisation as part of trying to retain influence, this was certainly the view of Macmillan after 1957. Racism at home may also be mentioned.

Post-War Britain 1951-1994

16 How successful were the Labour governments of 1974-79?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. It is likely that many will focus on economic issues. The period is often seen as one of economic decline that governments failed to reverse. In order to answer the question candidates might identify the problems faced and then consider how successful the policies were in addressing the difficulties. The governments faced the problem of shrinking manufacturing industries and a growing financial and service sector. The transition was not smooth and it caused difficult industrial relations. Candidates might also consider the failure of governments to address the problem of economic growth rates. The difficulties created by the oil price rise of 1973 might be considered as it resulted in a balance of payments deficit, inflation, a decrease in the value of sterling, rising interest rates and unemployment. Some might consider the reliance on loans from the IMF and devaluation of the pound as a sign of failure. It might be argued that if devaluation had been introduced earlier then difficulties could have been reduced. Candidates might consider relations with the Unions and Labour government's attempts to bring in statutory rules into industrial relations and how successful they were in removing industrial conflict. Candidates might also refer to the Winter of Discontent as evidence of failure. However, the failures might be put into context and candidates might suggest that the scale of the problems and their international dimension meant that some issues were outside government control. Some might

comment on the criticisms of the Left that the governments made little progress towards social equality and there have been arguments that under Callaghan it was the rich that got richer. The failures might be balanced against the problems faced in terms of electoral support as governments had either a small majority or no majority at all from February to October 1974 and 1977 to 1979. There were also the problems of dissension within the party and some might comment on the numbers who left the party.

17 'The failures of Wilson as Prime Minister are more significant than his achievements.' How far do you agree?

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Many answers are likely to agree with the statement and may well focus on the ultimate failure of the economic policies of the governments. There is also likely to be discussion of the failure to develop good industrial relations. The problem of economic growth rates was not solved and the difficulties created by the oil crisis of 1973 resulted in a balance of payment deficit, inflation, a decrease in the value of sterling, rising interest rates and unemployment. Some might consider the reliance on loans from the IMF and devaluation of the pound as a sign of failure. It might be argued that if devaluation had been introduced earlier then difficulties could have been reduced. Candidates might consider relations with the Unions and Labour government's attempts to bring in statutory rules into industrial relations and how successful they were in removing industrial conflict; issues such as the 1966 National Union of Seamen strike might be mentioned. Labour did face problems in dealing with this issue as they did not want to antagonise its chief supporters and this prevented Wilson from persevering with its attempts to outlaw unofficial strikes as laid out in the White Paper of 1969. The government also failed to persuade the unions to co-operate consistently with it, despite the repeal of the Conservative Industrial Relations Act. Candidates might also consider the failure of Wilson to bring about further social equality. However, the failures might be put into context and candidates might suggest that the scale of the problems and their international dimension meant that some issues were outside government control. It is also important to note that Labour governments frequently had either only a small majority or no majority at all and this limited their achievements. In considering whether there were successes answers might make reference to the establishment of Open University which enabled working adults to receive a university education at home. They might also mention the abolition of the death penalty and the legalisation of abortion and homosexual acts, 1968 also saw the granting of the franchise to 18 year olds. An Equal Pay Act was introduced in 1980 and Race Relations' legislation in 1965 and 1968 made many forms of racist behaviour illegal. Perhaps the greatest achievement might be seen as the narrowing of the gap between the rich and poor through increased benefits. It might also be argued that the greatest achievement of Wilson was simply to survive. Perhaps the greatest achievement was the Health and Safety Act.

18 Assess the reasons why Thatcher's economic policies were controversial.

No set answer is looked for but candidates will need to address the question. Although a very controversial PM, Thatcher did win three successive elections which might lead many to argue that her economic policies were successful, even though controversial. Her economic policies which did see unemployment rise dramatically, although it might be argued that this was essential if the substantial problem of inflation was to be brought under control. It could be argued that her first ministry had few economic achievements. It could be argued that her attack on the power of the Unions was both successful and necessary if modernisation of the economy was to occur, particularly in light of the Winter of Discontent under Callaghan. Some better answers might suggest that she was more successful in taking on the miners than Heath as she prepared for the confrontation. The denationalisation of industries brought many into share-holding, giving them a greater stake in the country, although in the long-term few kept their shares, but it was popular within the country. The availability of buying your own council house might be seen as very

successful as it created a new class of property owner who would often support the party. However, in hindsight some have seen the consumerism and 'loads of money' culture that her time in office created as undesirable. For the 'haves' of the mid 1980s it was a period of prosperity as real wages outstripped inflation. It appeared in 1987 as if the government had delivered an economic miracle. However, for those who did not benefit from the economic policies it was a period of increasing social exclusion, this was shown with riots in Brixton and other cities. Unemployment in parts of the inner cities hit levels not seen since the inter-war years as a result of industrial decline. There might be consideration of some of the shifts in taxation, with the rise in VAT shifting tax to consumption from income and the reduction of tax on wealth creators.

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