

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y111/01 Summer 2024 series

Contents

Introduction	3
Paper Y111/01 series overview	4
Section A overview	5
Question 1	5
Section B overview	14
Question 2*	14
Question 3*	15

Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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Paper Y111/01 series overview

Y111 is one of 13 units in Paper 1 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based question and a traditional essay question. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A, candidates have to answer a compulsory source question based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B, candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to consider both provenance of the sources and apply contextual knowledge to them in order to reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the issue in the question. The judgement should be based on an evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given, not on the topic or contextual knowledge. To reach Level 6, a judgement should be made at the end of the analysis of each source, with an overall judgement in the conclusion.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels, candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion. To reach Level 6 candidates should also make an overall judgement as well as interim judgements when assessing each factor.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge linked the contextual knowledge clearly to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question discussed at least two issues in depth in the essay question gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> did not consider both the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources wrote an unbalanced answer in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay were unable to support their answer with relevant material did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.

Section A overview

There is one compulsory question in this section. This question requires candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements. The critical evaluation of sources is the central theme in this section with all marks given against AO2.

The Enquiry section in Paper Y111 is focused on the development of the Labour Party 1893-1914 and its dependence on the support of the Trade Unions.

Question 1

England and a New Century c.1900–1918

- 1 'The development of the Labour Party during the period from 1893 to 1914 was dependent on the support of the Trade Unions.'

Use the **four** sources in their historical context to assess how far they support this view. [30]

This question was generally well-answered with most candidates demonstrating a good understanding of the views of the four sources and able to relate them to the actual question set. Contextual knowledge was soundly applied with many candidates able to discuss the role of Keir Hardie, the electoral link up with the Liberal Party in 1903, the impact of the Taff Vale judgement as well as the Trade Disputes Act and the growing power of the trade unions in the period. Provenance was similarly well-handled with most candidates able to make use of the roles of Ramsay MacDonald, Snowden and Reynold's newspaper. Source D saw a variety of comments about Webb and the Fabian Society, with some candidates seeing them as supporters of the Conservative Party.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should ensure that they are reaching a judgement about the sources using provenance in order to access Level 5 and Level 6 of the mark scheme.

Exemplar 1

1.	<p>Source A and B disagree with the view that during the period 1893 to 1914, the development of the Labour Party was dependent on trade unions. Source D does mention the ^{trade} unions' importance to an extent but only source C explicitly argues that support of the Trade Unions was the main reason for the party's development.</p>
Trade Union support in spite of	<p>Source A strongly disagrees with the view as it focuses on Keir Hardie's own role in forming the party and also views the Trade Unions as counter productive saying the 'ILP was 'attacked by a section of Socialists on the one hand and by the union leaders on the other.' Immediately the source reveals that Trade unions were quite unresponsive and for the party's development. Moreover it explains that it was Hardie's own determination and "dogged persistence" that sustained the party's emergence at stating Hardie had an inexhaustible inner resource needed... to create the Labour movement." Also, considering Hardie had served on the local council and had tried over four times to be elected as an MP, the the source is reliable in its assessment of Hardie's nature and character. Considering</p>

The provenance though, being a biography solely devoted to Keir Hardie, it is ~~undoubtedly~~ likely that his achievements are exaggerated or at least put at the forefront of causes of the Labour emergence. Especially as the act of writing a biography likely shows an amount of admiration to ~~the~~ Keir to begin with. Yet, coming from the mouth of Ramsay MacDonald, who was leader of the Labour Party, does credit the same with showing the veins of the Labour party themselves, providing insight to what they directly think is the reason for their development. Yet it fails to account for the lack of electoral success in 1906.

Source B also disagrees with the hypothesis ~~the~~ as it paints the Trade Unions as being difficult. ~~At~~ At the conference in 1900 by stating that committing the trade unions to "an extreme socialist programme would have made their cooperation most unlikely." Again, the Trade Unions are shown to be unhelpful and a nuisance in the cooperation and coordination of a ~~to~~ united labour movement. The source goes on to reveal that once again, it was Keir Hardie "with a true appreciation of the situation" whose own skill and ingenuity meant

that the LRC was formed and motion was passed "unanimously." The source clearly shows that the Trade Unions had huge sway with "500,000 members," hence their ability to unite the socialist parties and actually get them to engage in Parliament was a huge step ~~to it~~ in the development of the Labor Party which is evidence in the Lib Lab Pact of 1903 to come, which gave Labour sway in parliamentary reform and affairs. However, because the source is from an active member of the LLP, it is likely to overstate the LLP (and Hardies) own role, especially with the retrospective point of view in 1934, once Labour had established themselves. This knowledge of the provenance does make the source's claims slightly less reliable or objective.

Source D does agree with the ~~the~~ view to an extent as it reveals that the Labour leader MacDonald does "represent the views and aspirations of ~~the~~ of Trade Unionists" and hence the workers of Britain have supported ~~the~~ the Labour party. Noting that by 1914, the prevalence of

The Trade Unions were incredibly fond of the Triple alliance in 1912 of the transport, mine and railway workers (which had a joint shop of 1,000,000 members) the source's recognition of their 'persuasion' by propaganda, would have been a crucial factor to the development of the Labour Party. However, the source does reveal that the Liberals, and their unity with the Labour party as was the root cause for passing the Labour Workers Statute that "the closer the Labour member sticks to the Liberal Party the better he is pleased", "he" being the workers. With the contextual ~~and~~ evidence of the Lib-Lab unity after 1903, and the incredibly popular Liberal legislation in 1906 that reversed the Taft Vale judgment of 1901, it is ~~clear~~ the source's stance that the Liberal Party was one of the facilitating factors to the development of the Labour Party is quite convincing. The provenance, being a diary entry, does bring a level of honesty or at least it makes the source feel more motivated like the biographies of A and B for example. Yet, Beatrice Webb was a member of the upper class, and hence her disposition to the Liberals and their

"professionalism" is evidenced in the way she articulates her argument's development.

Nonetheless, her view in the source does reveal that the Mining Trade Union did have a role in developing the Labour Party because whether by propaganda or not, their support was evident and important considering their size and organisation.

Source C strongly agrees with the claim that the development of the Labour Party was dependent on the support of the Trade Unions as it recognises how the size and prominence of the LRC was largely due to the mining men stating that since "the textile workers had come in... the figure more like £50,000" from the 1902 subsidies of 450,000.

Ultimately, the source shows that the realisation of the mining men that the government was unrepresentative of them (especially in light of Conservative opposition on Taff Vale which caused a huge payment of compensation back to employees and ended the ability to strike) allowed the Party to emerge as "the more the workers realised... the

more the would their movement grow in strength." Moreover, the provenance does slightly undermine the ~~the~~ clarity of ~~the~~ the source's stance as they are the direct comments of "a trade union delegate" which makes ~~them~~ it likely to show a biased overstating of the Trade Union's importance. Similarly being published in a newspaper "the staff of which included leading trade unionists" does suggest a motive, that is recruiting more Trade unions to join or ~~to~~ just celebrate their own importance. Although, the act of publishing and spreading the word of the LRC and the importance of the Trade Unions in itself seems like an act which would encourage more support ~~for~~ and unity of Labor and hence help the development of the Labor Party significantly.

Overall, ~~although sources C and D support the view that the~~ although sources B and A strongly suggest that it was Keir Hardie rather than any other Socialist faction, especially the Trade Unions who are painted out to be largely uncooperative and unhelpful their provenance's weaken their stance severely.

as ~~being~~ ~~some~~ source A is an
 biography of Heri Hardie, clearly with
 the motivation of celebrating his importance
 and source B is an autobiography of
 an ILP member who would also be
 inclined to celebrate the ILP (and
 Hardie's) importance to a large extent.
 Also, both being written after the formal
 constitution of Labour (which was in
 1918) again gives them a separation from
 the actual events of the time and
 make it easier to overstate the importance
 of a singular member, who himself
 was largely unable to win substantial
 seats until after 1918 and the 1913
 movement where miners swapped allegiance
 from Liberal to Labour. Hence source C
~~the common view that~~ the and
 D's view that the movement
 essentially gained its power and
 sway through the Trade Unions
 who had substantially larger members
 and organisation is more convincing
 especially as the very act of publishing
 a newspaper spreading the importance
 and relevancy of Trade Unions members
 in itself would further generate support
 for the LRC and Labour movement

		in some C's Reynolds publishing. Therefore,
		although sources A and B disagree with the
		view, overall the sources of Card D
		support better support the view to a strong
		extent that the Trade unions play a
		support was development of the
		Labour Party during the period 1893 to
		1914 was dependent on the support of the
		Trade Unions.

This exemplar shows a response which reaches the top of Level 5 with good judgement on the sources overall. Interim judgements would help this response reach Level 6.

Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer one essay from a choice of two. Each question is taken from a different Key Topic and requires candidates to weigh up the importance of a range of factors or issues.

In Paper Y111, the candidates were asked whether the repeal of the Corn Laws impacted the Whigs more than the Peelites or Conservatives between 1846 and 1859, or whether Disraeli's position on constitutional reform was the main reason he was mistrusted.

Question 2*

Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour 1846–1902

- 2* 'The repeal of the Corn Laws impacted the Whigs more than the Peelites and Conservatives in the period from 1846 to 1859.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

This was the less popular of the two essay questions. The best responses considered the wording in the question carefully, focusing on the impact of the repeal of the Corn Laws. Most candidates were able to demonstrate the impact of the repeal of the Corn Laws on the Conservatives and Peelites. Many were able to show how the Conservatives were split and lost many of its most talented members including Peel and Gladstone, although fewer noted their lack of success in elections across the period. Many candidates knew the impact on the Peelites, with discussion of how they supported the Whigs and that their influence was short-lived. Most could also point to their role in the creation of the Liberal Party in 1859. Impact on the Whigs was less well-developed. Many pointed to their emergence as the party of free trade but fewer noted their electoral success under Russell or Gladstone's budgets of the 1850s. Most pointed to their fusion with Peelites and radicals into the Liberals.

Exemplar 2

		Overall, although the Corn Law repeal impacted the Tories and Peelites greatly, splitting up their Party and resulting in no clear leader for Unit Disraeli emerged, it impacted the Whigs the most. This is because it opened the way for key political figures such as Palmerston and Gladstone to expand Whigs' appeal during the 1850s directly leading to the Liberal Party creation in 1859 and political dominance for years to come. This becomes evident through Palmerston's foreign policy popularity and Gladstone's budget in 1853 which cemented his ideology of free trade for the following decades.
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This exemplar demonstrates a Level 5 response with judgement in the conclusion. The judgement is the key to accessing Level 5 with interim judgements essential for Level 6 responses.

Question 3*

3* 'Disraeli's position on constitutional reform was the main reason he was mistrusted.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

This was the more popular response on the paper and was largely well answered by many candidates. The main factor in the question was perhaps less-developed by some candidates, with a few unaware of what constitutional reform was, whilst others were unable to point out the short term nature of his interest in reform. Better responses discussed his opposition to reform and his limited 1859 measures, whilst the best responses were able to show how the terms of the 1867 Act were designed to serve Conservative interests. The alternative arguments were more strongly argued, with many able to discuss Disraeli's role in the fall of Peel, his social background, his foreign policy and the nature of his domestic reforms as being more relevant in examining why there was mistrust towards Disraeli.

Misconception



The issue of "constitutional reform" was misunderstood by several candidates with some looking at general domestic reforms, whilst others confused this with foreign policy.

Exemplar 3

3		Disraeli was arguably viewed as with mistrust for several reasons and by several groups including the the Liberals, the public and the other Conservatives. Constitutional reform was certainly a significant reason, as well as others such as his foreign policy as well as his domestic
		Constitutional reform was arguably an very important factor contributing to Disraeli being mistrusted. The Conservative Party was arguably very much a party of the reaction

and was not as committed to ~~the~~ reform as much as ~~the~~ the Liberal Party or the Chartist movement of past decades. Yet, Disraeli's passage of the 1867 Reform Act went against this, with ~~over~~ the electorate ~~to~~ being increased by over a million and ~~these~~ those without property being enfranchised. This arguably went against the ~~tradition~~ values of the traditional landowning Conservative voters ~~was~~ as well as many of their ~~politicians~~ MPs. The Act had been passed as a 'leap in the dark' and as a continuation of proposed electoral reforms in the ~~the~~ previous Liberal government, ~~but~~ it ~~is~~ ~~clear~~ ~~that~~ ~~Disraeli~~ which seems to have made Disraeli seem less principled and without clear political beliefs. The fact that the Conservatives lost the 1868 general election also suggests that the Act had not inspired trust in Disraeli for much of the electorate and it seems this was a major ~~factor~~ reason for his defeat.

Also ~~that~~, Disraeli's ideology of Tory Democracy or One-Nation Conservatism

did in principle advocate for increased efforts of the elites and aristocracy to make changes and reforms such as ~~etc~~ ~~but~~ ~~the~~ constitutional reform, with the idea of bringing the 'two nations of Britain together' including this, yet the Conservative Party's ~~was~~ government from 1874-1880 made no significant constitutional reforms, ~~meaning that many~~ although many that did not help ~~to~~ social and labor problems, and ~~therebut~~ this absence of constitutional reform seem to have ~~caused~~ caused the electorate to be mistrustful given the 1880 election defeat for Disraeli.

However, it is clear that there were more important factors which made Disraeli mistrusted, such as his foreign policy. The 1874-1880 ministry ~~made many~~ caused much mistrust due to its foreign policy, ~~notably~~ with ~~the~~ dealing with the Eastern Crisis being a major example. ~~The~~ Disraeli was determined to prevent Russia from gaining influence in the Balkans and thus decided to support Turkish

interests there, but when there were reports of atrocities taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Disraeli ignored these claims even after a verified report in the Times. This became even worse after the Bulgarian atrocities of 1876, after which Disraeli did send an investigation but did not immediately condemn the Turks, leading Gladstone in 1876 to condemn Disraeli for this, publishing a pamphlet criticising him and calling out against the atrocities. Disraeli's mishandling led to significant mistrust amongst the public and was a major factor in his defeat in the 1880 election. Also, the Anglo-Zulu war under Disraeli's ministry and the Afghanistan campaign were seen as too forward and aggressive, and were characterised by Gladstone as 'Beaconsfieldism' which was used to spread mistrust of Disraeli during the Midlothian campaign which led to Gladstone's victory. Also, the Queen's bestowal of the title 'Earl of Beaconsfield' was largely seen as

an exchange for the Royal Titles Act of 1876 which gave ~~Queen~~ the Queen the title 'Empress of India', ~~and this~~ which was seen as corrupt and ~~the~~ immoral by many.

Another reason why constitutional reform was not the main reason Disraeli was mistrusted is due to the fact that ~~these~~ Disraeli's other domestic reforms were what made him more untrustworthy. The Public Worship Act made conditions unfair for non-Anglicans ~~and~~ and the ~~Education~~ Factory Act of 1874, which reduced the amount of hours for women and children to work to ten hours a day and banned the employment of children under 9 years old displeased industrial employers and factory owners. The Education Act of 1876 ~~also~~, whilst benefiting the education of children by requiring them to show proof of school attendance when working, may have meant that families that relied on their children's employment to survive ~~could be~~ were less trusting of Disraeli.

3	continued	<p>In conclusion, it is clear that whilst constitutional reform such as the 1867 Reform Act did confuse the many people's perception of Disraeli's position on constitutional reform and his lack of reform from 1874-80 contradicted Tory democracy, it was his foreign policy, especially his response to the Eastern Crisis and the Bulgarian atrocities, as well as 'Beaconsfieldism' which created mistrust and led to Disraeli's defeat at the 1880 election.</p>
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This exemplar demonstrates a Level 6 response which includes all these arguments alongside strong interim and concluding judgements.

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