

Name: _____

1H Britain 1918-97

Date:

Edexcel A Level History

Question Paper

Time:

Total marks available: 780

Total marks achieved: _____



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Q1.

How far did educational opportunities widen in the years 1918–45?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q2.

How far did industrial relations change in the years 1939–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q3.

To what extent did the economic challenges facing Britain change in the years 1918–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q4.

Was an improvement in the health of the nation in the years 1948–79 the main consequence of the creation of the National Health Service?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q5.

Was a failure to modernise the main reason for the decline of traditional industries in the 1920s and 1930s? Explain your answer.

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q6.

How accurate is it to say that the growth of youth culture was the most significant development in popular culture in the years 1950-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q7.

How different were attitudes to race and immigration in the inter-war years compared to attitudes in the years 1945-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q8.

To what extent did attitudes to immigration and race change in the years 1945-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q9.

How accurate is it to say that there was more continuity than change in popular culture and entertainment in the years 1918-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q10.

To what extent did the British political landscape change in the years 1918-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q11.

To what extent did the class structure of Britain change in the years 1918-51?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q12.

Was the extension of the franchise the main reason for changing party fortunes in the years 1918-31?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q13.

How far do you agree that the growth of car ownership was the most significant development in leisure and travel in the years 1918-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q14.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 before you answer this question.

Extract 1: From Martin Pugh, *State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain since 1870*, published 2008.

The Thatcher governments' attack on the state concentrated on four main areas: local government, education, health and nationalised industries. For some years the government gave no indication that it planned to return state-owned industry to the private sector. However, the government eventually realised that the privatisations would provide the resources required to pay for tax cuts. The result was a succession of privatisations, including British Telecom, British Airways, British Gas, and the Electricity and Water Boards. 5

Conservative mistrust of elected local government went back a long way. The government attempted to restrict local expenditure by reducing grants and setting limits. Ministers also cut local government down to size by forcing councils to sell off council houses while not allowing them to use the proceeds to build new ones. Schools were also given financial incentives to opt out of council control. Mrs Thatcher hesitated to tackle the National Health Service directly, because of its popularity. However, during the 1980s expenditure cuts resulted in the closure of thousands of hospital beds and a major increase in waiting lists. 10 15

Extract 2: From Derrick Murphy, *Britain 1914-2000*, published 2000.

In many ways Thatcher's policies had failed. It proved far more difficult to roll back the state than had been foreseen. Government spending was largely the same in 1995 as it had been in 1980. Indeed, one of the contradictions of Thatcherism was that the government became increasingly centralised and interventionist at a number of levels. The governments of the 1980s imposed a series of entirely new powers over local government. In education policy, the Conservatives introduced a national curriculum that set clear limits on the freedom of state schools. The privatisation of industry was accompanied by the introduction of a series of regulatory bodies, staffed by unelected officials.

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Britain had also not really become an individualistic society. People generally remained resistant to official encouragement to become more entrepreneurial and go-getting. The British people, for example, remained firmly attached to the National Health Service, which was seen as the greatest collective achievement. Thatcher repeatedly had to state that the 'National Health Service is safe in our hands'.

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Historians have different views about the impact on Britain of Thatcher's governments in the years 1979–97. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that the Thatcher governments were successful in their aims to reduce the role of the state?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q15.

To what extent did government policies on immigration change in the years 1945–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q16.

How accurate is it to say that the most significant influence on race and immigration, in the years 1939–79, was government policies on race relations?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q17.

Was increasing affluence the main reason for changes in leisure in the years c1951-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q18.

Was economic prosperity the main reason for changes in leisure opportunities from c1951-1979?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q19.

Was government action the main reason for improvements in the role and status of women in the years 1939-79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q20.

Was the impact of war the main reason for social change in Britain in the years 1918-51?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q21.

Were economic influences the main cause of social change in the 1950s and 1960s?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q22.

Was the decline of traditional industries the main reason for changing industrial relations in the years 1918-39?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q23.

Was the extension of the franchise the main reason for the changing political landscape in the 1920s and 1930s?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q24.

Was the impact of the Second World War the main reason for the creation of the welfare state in the post-war period?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q25.

How far do you agree that the wartime experience of 1939–45 was the main reason for the creation of the welfare state in the post-war period?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q26.

Were the after-effects of the First World War the main reason for the economic challenges of the 1920s and 1930s?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q27.

Was cost the main reason for the increasing challenges to state welfare provision in the years 1964–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q28.

Was the development of comprehensive education the main reason for the widening of opportunities in education in the years 1944–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q29.

How far do you agree that, in the years 1918–51, regional differences were the most significant feature of the quality of life?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q30.

How far do you agree that television was the most significant development in popular culture and entertainment in the years 1918–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q31.

How significant was the 1944 Education Act in the development of education in the years 1918–1979?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q32.

How similar was welfare provision in the years 1918–39 to that in the years 1945–79?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q33.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 before you answer this question.

Historians have different views about the impact on Britain of Thatcher's governments in the years 1979–97. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that people in Britain became better-off as a result of Thatcher's economic policies?

Extract 1: From Leslie Hannah, *Crisis and Turnaround? 1973–1993*, published 1995.

In the 1980s, the clearest indicator to ordinary people of the productivity increase was the rapid and sustained rise in earnings of those in work. Indeed the rise in real earnings was the most rapid on record. Consumption increased even more rapidly. Easy credit, rising imports and an expected decline in inflation permitted a spending spree which peaked in the artificial and unsustainable boom of the late 1980s. With the employed workforce rising from 22.5 million in 1979 to 26.9 million at the peak in 1989 (the bulk of the increase being among women and in the service industries), more people were becoming better-off faster than in any previous decade in British history. 5

Extract 2: From Norman Lowe, *Mastering Modern British History*, reprinted 1998.

[In the 1980s,] successive income tax reductions, particularly in 1988, benefited the rich more than the poor: the richest 20 per cent gained by almost a third, whereas the poorest 20 per cent gained only 1 per cent in income. Higher direct taxes such as VAT meant that people on low incomes had to pay the same VAT increases as those on the highest incomes, for example on commodities like petrol, and they were therefore relatively worse off. Although the wages of most people in work rose, salaries of top people rose by much more than those of skilled workers. By 1993, the gap between the highest and lowest wages was the widest since records began. According to a study of social inequality, between 1979 and 1991, the incomes of the bottom sixth of the workforce actually fell. 10 15

Tighter regulations made it more difficult for young people to get social security benefits, and it was no surprise when beggars began to appear on the streets again. With unemployment running permanently at around 3 million, it seemed that Thatcherite policies had created, or at least been unable to prevent, the emergence of a permanent 'underclass' for whom there was no longer any role in society. 20 25

Q34.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 before you answer this question.

Extract 1: From Sidney Pollard, *The development of the British Economy 1914–1990*, published 1992.

For the eleven years of the Thatcher experiment there need be no ambiguity of verdict. All the signs point in the same direction: the experiment ended in almost total failure. By the end of the period, in 1990, Britain had the highest rate of inflation among advanced economies, though the curbing of the inflation had been the Government's declared priority number one. Britain had the highest interest rates; and it also had high and rising unemployment; large-scale bankruptcies of firms in all sectors of the economy; falling output and declining national income; and the largest deficit on the current balance of payment in history. Over the period as a whole, despite the oil, Britain had, unbelievably, a slower rate of growth than in comparable periods before. In other respects also, such as the number of hours worked in industry, environmental pollution, the morale of the Social Services, and many more, Britain was at the bottom of the developed world.

Extract 2: From William D. Rubinstein, *Twentieth Century Britain: A Political History*, published 2003.

By 1983, the economy was beginning to recover. Because of North Sea oil, Britain had a strong balance of trade surplus, which reached £7 billion in 1981 and was still £3 billion in 1983. Many business people and professionals were now benefiting from Thatcherism. In 1988, Chancellor Nigel Lawson reduced the standard rate of income tax to 25 per cent and the top rate to 40 per cent, one of the lowest top rates in the world. This was arguably the most important and far-sighted taxation decision made by any modern government. It helped demand and regained British economic pre-eminence in Europe. Furthermore, in 1986 the London Stock Exchange was deregulated, modernising the City which re-emerged as one of the world's great financial centres. The latter half of Thatcher's premiership started a 'British economic miracle' which, by the end of the century, had produced the strongest economy in Europe with an unemployment rate half that of its chief European rivals.

Historians have different views about the impact on Britain of Thatcher's governments in the years 1979–97. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your own knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that Thatcher's economic policies had a disastrous impact on the people of Britain?

Q35.

Was cost the main reason the state faced increasing challenges in welfare provision in the 1960s and 1970s?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q36.

How far did the role of women change in the years 1918-45?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q37.

In the 1950s and 1960s, was the main consequence of the increase in car ownership a growth in leisure and entertainment activities? Explain your answer.

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q38.

Was austerity the main effect of the Second World War on British society in the 1940s and 1950s?

(Total for question = 20 marks)

Q39.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 before you answer this question.

Extract 1: From David Gladstone, *British Social Welfare*, published 1995.

There can be little doubt that Thatcherism represented a major transformation in British politics. Both on the right and left the celebration of Thatcherism is a rejection of the social democratic consensus. It has been suggested that John Major's replacement of Margaret Thatcher pushed both major parties back to the pragmatic centre ground of British politics. This, however, was not the previous centre ground but a new post-Thatcher settlement, in which the state's role was limited in the economy and welfare became more targeted. Popular opinion saved the welfare state from its potential destruction; however, this popularity did not save it from the restructuring that began after the Conservatives' third election victory in 1987. This produced a more radical welfare state agenda, centring on competition, internal markets, opt-outs from local or district health authority control, the 1988 reform of education and the 1990 changes to the NHS and the delivery of community care.

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Extract 2: From Ben Jackson and Robert Saunders, *Making Thatcher's Britain*, published 2012.

There is little evidence of the broader cultural change so often associated with the Thatcher era. The Conservative share of the vote actually declined in each election from 1979 to 1992. The political success of Thatcherism was partly due to an electoral system that allowed radical policies to be pursued on the basis of 42-44 per cent of the popular vote. Secondly, social and economic changes such as the increasing opportunities for working mothers, the rise in teenage pregnancy and the rise of the service sector were in progress before Thatcher took office. Third, if 'Thatcherism' aimed at the restoration of the traditional family and the reinvigoration of industry, its success had been limited indeed. By 1990, divorce, abortion and teenage pregnancy were more common and more socially acceptable, while crime increased by an average of 5-7 per cent each year. Despite Thatcher's own emphasis on thrift, personal borrowing escalated dramatically. The Conservatives had promised a manufacturing revival in 1979, but the number of workers employed in manufacturing industry fell by 42 per cent over the 1980s.

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Historians have different views about the impact on Britain of Thatcher's governments in the years 1979-97. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that, in the years 1979-97, the Thatcher governments transformed Britain?

(Total for question = 20 marks)