OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

GCSE

A021/01

HISTORY B (MODERN WORLD)

How was British society changed, 1890–1918?

SOURCE BOOKLET

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015: Morning

MODIFIED ENLARGED

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How was British society changed, 1890–1918?

The government and the people

SOURCE A: An extract from 'Inquiry into the life and labour of the people in London' by Charles Booth published in 1893.

> **In Bangor Street I observed more lodging houses and a soup kitchen. The houses were very roughly built with many gaps in the bricks which allowed in the weather. It is as bad a street as you will see in any part of London. At the time of my visit the men were mostly at the docks. If no work was available there they were seeking work in the many workshops around the docks. Outside the soup kitchen was a long queue of school children. About 30 boys and 40 girls were waiting to get in. Inside they were given bread and a thick vegetable soup. The children all waited patiently. Most were clean although all wore ragged clothes. Few had decent boots or shoes and many were barefoot.**

SOURCE B: From a Liberal Party pamphlet published in 1909.

The title of the pamphlet was 'The Up To Date Record of the Liberal Government 1906–1909'.

OLD AGE PENSIONS AT LAST!

By the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908 Pensions began to be paid on New Year's Day, 1909.

PENSIONS FOR HALF A MILLION OLD PEOPLE OF 70 YEARS OF AGE OR MORE.

5/- a week for all of that age who have not more than 8/- a week, with less amounts for incomes between 8/- and 12/-.

No contribution from Pensioner, who must not be an alien, criminal, lunatic, or pauper.

Pensions not to be paid through Poor Law, but to be worked through the Post Office, a local pension committee, and a pension officer unconnected with the Poor Law.

WHAT THE LIBERALS DO IS BETTER THAN WHAT THE TORIES PROMISE.

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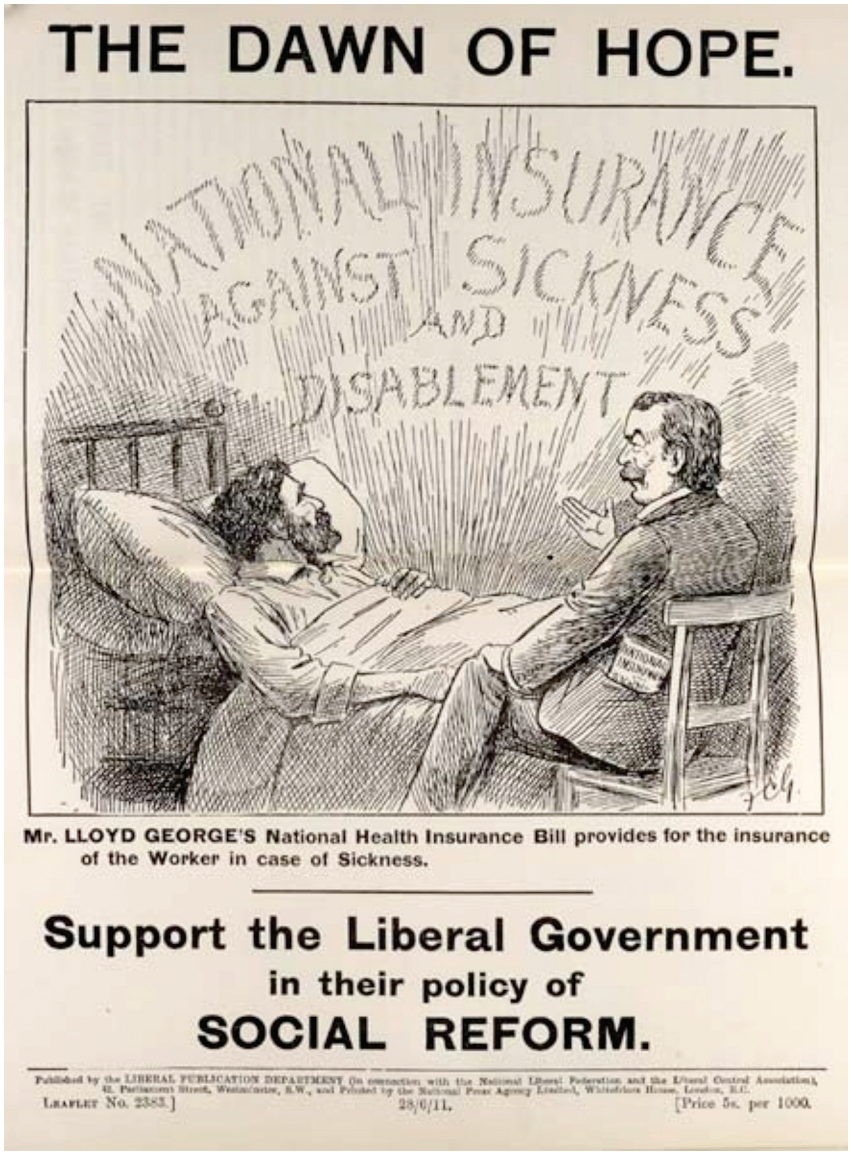
SOURCE C: From a Labour-supporting newspaper published in Britain in 1909.

PITIFUL PENSION STORY

An inquest was held by the East London Coroner yesterday into the death of Emma Stevens, aged 69. The woman's husband, a labourer also aged 69, stated that recently he had not been able to give her enough food. They were behind with their rent and his wife had said she was afraid the landlord was going to turn them out into the street. Her husband sobbed as he told the coroner that these were his wife's last words. They had refused outdoor relief or the workhouse because he and his wife did not want to lose out on the old age pension. The coroner said that this was a case where the Old Age Pension Act had actually harmed old people. This reporter has observed many such cases in the last few months.

SOURCE D: A Liberal Party poster published in 1911 before the passing of the National Insurance Act.

At the top of the poster it says 'The dawn of Hope'. On the poster there is a drawing of a man lying ill in bed. Lloyd George is sitting on a chair beside the bed. He is showing the man a rising sun whose rays say, 'National Insurance against Sickness and Disablement'. Underneath it says, 'Mr. Lloyd George's National Health Insurance Bill provides for the insurance of the Worker in case of Sickness. Support the Liberal Government in their policy of SOCIAL REFORM.'



SOURCE E: From an article in a Conservative-supporting newspaper published in 1913.

Conservative politicians demanded the abolition of compulsory contributions to the National Insurance Act at a well-supported public meeting last night. This demand has been the central feature of the vast mass of letters which have been sent to this newspaper. It has overshadowed all other issues and caused considerable damage to the Liberal cause.

Trade unions have expressed great dissatisfaction with the Act, as have many working men. So too, have the hard pressed taxpayers, forced to pay the bill for this hated and inefficient measure of National Insurance which will not benefit the ordinary working man in any way and may actually harm him.

SOURCE F: A cartoon published in Britain in 1917.

Prime Minister David Lloyd George is shown playing the trumpet, standing in front of two shops. One is a coal merchant which has a big sign saying 'No coal' across the window. The other shop is a tobacconist which has a sign saying 'No matches' across its window. The cartoon is called 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and this was the title of a popular patriotic song during the First World War.



"KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING."

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