



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Friday 9 June 2023 – Afternoon**

**A Level History A**

**Y112/01 Britain 1900–1951**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A. Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 in Section B.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **4** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

## Section A

### England and a New Century c.1900–1918

Study the **four** sources and answer Question 1.

- 1 Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that economic and financial concerns were the focus of the debate about national efficiency in the period from 1900 to 1918. [30]

**Source A: Those who investigated the physical condition of the population reveal some of their principal recommendations.**

We believe that more may be done to check the degeneration resulting from ‘drink’ by bringing home to men and women the fatal effects of alcohol on physical efficiency. To this end we advocate the systematic, practical training of teachers to enable them to give rational instruction in schools on health, including the demonstration of the physical evils caused by drinking. With a view to combating the evils resulting from the influx from country to town, we recommend that every effort should be made by teachers in rural schools to open the minds of the children to the resources and opportunities of rural life.

**Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, 1904.**

**Source B: The majority of the royal commissioners express their views on the reasons to improve national efficiency.**

In our midst is a class whose condition is a discredit and a peril to the whole community. Every section of society has a common duty to perform in combating this evil, to convert useless and costly inefficients into self-sustaining and respectable members of the community. No country, however rich, can permanently hold its own in the race of international trade, if hampered by an increasing load of this dead weight. Neither can it successfully perform the role of sovereignty beyond the seas if a portion of its own people is sinking below the civilisation and ambitions of its subject races abroad.

**Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, 1909.**

**Source C: A member of the Fabian Society, and a respected writer on contemporary affairs, argues the case for a minimum wage.**

We all know the findings of Mr Seebohm Rowntree in York in 1901 of those living on incomes below a psychological minimum. The situation is probably worse today. The last ten years have witnessed a steep rise in the cost of working-class living and scarcely any rise in wages. When wages are paid too low to sustain physical efficiency, the underpaying industry is, in the strict economic sense, parasitic. The nation foots the bill, not in money terms only, but in physical deterioration, moral degradation and social catastrophe. Underpayment tends clearly to the loss of the nation.

**R.C.K. Ensor, The practical case for a legal minimum wage, 1912.**

**Source D: The businessman and surveyor of poverty in York in 1901, offers advice to employers about welfare in munitions factories.**

If you would have a permanently efficient worker you must have a good citizen, adequately paid, well-developed in body and mind, with keen and worthy ambition and a true awareness of his responsibilities to his fellow workers, to the firm for which he works and to the community. A great deal of our low productivity now is due to the fact that we are suspicious of our workers and our workers are suspicious of us. When we should be putting all our strength into our business and increasing output to the utmost limit, we are frittering away our energies in abusing one another.

**Seebohm Rowntree, an open letter, 1917.**

**Section B****Britain c.1918–1951**

Answer Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2\*** 'Conservative domestic policies in the period from 1924 to 1929 were the most important reason for the Conservative's election defeat in 1929.' How far do you agree? **[20]**
- 3\*** 'Financial problems were more serious than other difficulties faced by the Labour governments in the period from 1945 to 1951.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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