

## **Section 7: 1914–1951**

### **The First World War**

**2011** Assess the quality of British generalship on the Western Front during World War I.

**2012** How close to defeat did Britain come during the First World War?

**2014** Assess the effectiveness of British military leadership on the Western Front during the First World War.

**2015** How close did Britain come to losing the First World War?

**2016** Assess the importance of the Home Front to Britain's war effort in the years 1914–1918.

**2018** Assess the quality of British military leadership in the First World War

### **Lloyd George**

**2011** How justified is it to describe Lloyd George as 'merely the prisoner of the Conservatives' during the coalition government of 1918–22?

**2013** Assess the effectiveness of David Lloyd George as prime minister in the years 1916 – 22.

**2014** 'A government lacking domestic achievement.' How valid is this judgement on the Coalition Government of 1918–22?

**2017** What best explains why the Lloyd George Coalition government collapsed in 1922?

**2019** Did the coalition government of 1918–1922 achieve anything of significance?

### **Labour and the Liberals in the '20s**

**2012** 'Asquith was more to blame than Lloyd George for the collapse of the Liberal party in the period 1916–29.' Discuss.

**2013** How are the advances made by the Labour party in the period 1918–29 best explained?

**2014** What best explains why, in the period 1918–29, the Liberal party ceased to be one of the two major political parties in Britain?

**2016** To what extent were the advances made by the Labour Party in the period 1918–1931 dependent on weaknesses and divisions in the Liberal Party?

**2017** How are the varying fortunes of the Labour party in the years 1918–1931 best explained?

**2018** How effective was Ramsay MacDonald in the years 1922–31, both as Labour leader and prime minister?

**2019** What best explains why, in the years 1922–29, the liberal Party was unable to resume its role as one of the two dominant parties in parliament?

### **Conservatives between the wars**

**2014** How effective a prime minister was Stanley Baldwin?

### **Fascism and Communism between the wars**

**2018** Why did neither the Fascists nor the Communists achieve electoral success in Britain in the inter-war period?

### **The General Strike and Trade Unions**

**2011** Assess the causes and consequences of the failure of the General Strike of 1926

**2014** 'A period of disappointment and frustration for British trade unionism.' How valid is this judgement for the period 1918–39?

### **Imperial and Foreign Policy between the wars**

**2011** 'Britain's policy of appeasement in the 1930s was politically popular but fundamentally misconceived.' How far do you agree with this view?

**2013** How successful were British imperial policies in the years 1922–39?

**2014** 'Appeasement was the only realistic policy for British governments in the 1930s.' Was it?

**2016** How important was support for the League of Nations in the conduct of British foreign policy between the wars?

**2017** Why, in the inter-war period, was Britain unable to prevent growing pressure for Indian independence?

**2018** Assess the effect of the First World War on Britain's foreign policy in the 1920s and 1930s.

**2019** How well did inter-war governments handle the problems of governing the British Empire?

### **Economic and Social History between the wars**

**2012** Why was the impact of the inter-war economic depression so much more severe in the north of Britain than in the south?

**2019** How effective were the National Government's responses to the problems of depression and unemployment in the period 1931-1939?

### **Churchill and the Second World War**

**2012** How important was the Home Front to Britain's eventual victory in the Second World War?

**2013** Does Winston Churchill deserve his reputation as a great wartime leader?

**2014** Why did Winston Churchill's wartime coalition government pay so much attention to the Home Front?

**2016** 'In the years 1940–1945, Churchill was a successful but flawed wartime leader.' Discuss.

**2017** How successfully did British governments manage the Home Front during the Second World War?

**2019** How effective was the 'Home Front' in supporting the war effort in the years 1919-1945?

### **Labour 1945-51**

**2012** Does the Labour government of 1945–50 deserve its reputation as 'a great reforming administration'?

**2013** How radical were the economic and social policies of the Labour Governments of 1945–51?

**2015** Why did the Labour Party win the general election of 1945 so decisively?

**2016** 'The domestic policies of the Labour government of 1945–1950 were socialist in name only.' Were they?

**2017** Why did the Labour party win such a decisive victory in the 1945 general election?

**2018** What best explains the extent of nationalisation undertaken by the Labour governments of 1945-51?

### **Indian Independence**

**2011** Why did the Labour government move so quickly after 1945 to give independence to India?

**2015** How successfully did the Labour government of 1945–50 handle the issue of independence for India?

**2017** see inter-war foreign policy

## **Section 8: 1951–2005**

### **Foreign Policy**

**2011** How successful, and how important to Britain, was the British Commonwealth in this period?

**2012** 'Britain's influence in world affairs declined in the period 1945–70 because its foreign policy was conducted, against all the evidence, on the assumption that Britain remained a world power.' Assess the validity of this judgement.

**2012** 'In the 1960s and 1970s, Britain managed the process of decolonisation both skilfully and successfully.' Discuss.

**2013** To what extent, during the years 1945–90, did Britain have a 'special relationship' with the United States of America?

**2014** How effectively did Britain handle the process of decolonisation in the period c.1950 to c.1980?

**2015** How effective was the foreign policy of the Conservative governments in the years 1951–64?

**2016** Was the most difficult colonial problem faced by British governments in the period 1951–1979 Southern Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)?

**2017** 'Consistent, but consistently misguided.' How valid is this judgement on British foreign policy in the years 1945–1964?

**2018** 'In the second half of the twentieth century, British foreign policy objectives were excessively pro-American.' Were they?

**2019** Assess the impact of the Suez Crisis for British foreign policy in the 1950s and early 1960s

### **Conservatives 1951–64**

**2011** Was the Conservative election defeat of 1964 due more to the party's long-term weaknesses or to its poor handling of short-term crises?

**2013** What best explains why the Conservatives were able to win three successive general elections during the 1950s?

**2016** How successfully did Conservative domestic policies in the 1950s promote growing economic prosperity and increasing social cohesion?

**2017** What best explains the Conservative party's victories in the general elections of 1955 and 1959?

**2018** Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Harold Macmillan as prime minister.

**2019** Why was the Conservative Party in power for so long in the 1950s and early 1960s?

### **Party politics in the '60s and '70s**

**2011** 'A mediocre prime minister whose policies lacked both vision and direction.' Assess this view of Harold Wilson.

**2015** What best explains the Labour Party's electoral successes in 1964 and 1966?

**2015** Which responded better to the challenges of the 1970s: Conservative or Labour governments?

**2018** How effective were Labour's domestic policies in the years 1964–70?

### **Consensus Politics in the '50s and '60s**

**2012** To what extent did Conservative and Labour governments follow broadly similar domestic policies in the years 1951–70?

### **Trade Unions**

**2011** Why did the influence of the trade union movement decline so sharply in the last thirty years of the twentieth century?

**2013** Why did the trade union movement exercise so much political influence in the 1960s and 1970s?

**2014** Explain why, in the 1960s and 1970s, relations between governments and the trade union movement were often so poor.

**2016** Why, in the 1960s and 1970s, were industrial relations so often so poor?

**2017** Why was the power and influence of the trade union movement so much less in the 1980s than it had been in the 1970s?

**2019** What best explains the influence of the trade union movement in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s?

### **Britain and Europe**

**2011** Why did it take so long for Britain to join the European Community (EEC)?

**2012** Why were Britain's relations with its partners in the European Economic Community (EU) frequently so difficult in the years 1973–90?

**2013** Why were relations between Britain and its partners in the European Economic Community (EU) frequently so strained during the 1980s?

**2014** Why did Britain join the European Economic Community in 1973, and not before?

**2016** Assess the effectiveness of Britain's European policy during the prime ministership of Margaret Thatcher.

**2017** see Themes

**2018** see Themes

**2019** see Themes

### **Thatcher**

**2014** Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Margaret Thatcher as prime minister.

**2015** Why, by 1990, were many of Margaret Thatcher's own ministers anxious to see the end of her premiership?

**2017** Why did Margaret Thatcher face substantial opposition to her leadership from within her own party in the years 1975–1990?

**2018** 'The greatest achievement of the Thatcher governments was to reduce the power of the trade unions.' Discuss.

**2019** To what extent were Margaret Thatcher's policies motivated by her hostility to socialism?

### **1997**

**2013** 'Labour's massive election victory in 1997 owed much more to Conservative infighting and incompetence than it did to Labour popularity.' Discuss.

**2016** Why did 'New Labour' win the general election of 1997 so decisively?

## **Section 9: Themes: c.1914–2000**

### **Britain and Europe**

**2017** 'In the period from 1945 to c. 2000, public opinion in Britain was sharply divided over greater integration with other European nations.' Why was this?

**2018** How much benefit did Britain derive from its closer integration with Europe in the years 1973–c2000?

**2019** Assess the contribution of Britain to European integration in the period 1945–2000

### **Economic history**

**2011** Assess the view that British economic policies were more successful in the period 1945–2000 than in the period 1918–45.

**2011** Why was the impact of technological change on British life so substantial during the second half of the twentieth century?

**2012** 'The most important factor in an explanation of how the British economy performed over the twentieth century was the fighting of two world wars which the nation could not afford.' Discuss.

**2013** Why, over this period, did manufacturing exports make a generally diminishing contribution to the British economy?

**2015** Explain why service industries played an increasingly important role in the British economy in this period.

**2016** 'The British economy in the twentieth century did best when governments placed most faith in "market forces".' Did it?

**2017** 'In the period from c. 1914 to c. 2000 the British economy adjusted effectively to changing circumstances.' Did it?

**2018** How effectively, in the period c1945 to c2000, did British politicians manage the economy?

**2019** What best explains why governments were so concerned about levels of unemployment in the years 1945–79?

### **Women's history**

**2011** 'The feminist movement in Britain had ambitious objectives but entirely failed to understand the needs and aspirations of ordinary women.' To what extent do you agree with this judgement in respect of the period from c.1970?

**2012** 'In the second half of the twentieth century "women's liberation" was promoted only by a small, noisy and unrepresentative minority.' How far do you agree?

**2013** 'By 1945, female enfranchisement had brought women the vote but little else.' Discuss.

**2014** Assess the extent to which women's opportunities in the workplace changed in the period c.1918–c.1980.

**2015** 'In the period 1918–80, for most women, achieving higher living standards had greater priority than gaining political influence.' Discuss.

**2017** To what extent did the roles of women in British society change in the period c. 1918–1980?

**2018** By 1980, the women's liberation movement had transformed prospects and opportunities for women.' Had it?

**2019** 'Middle class women benefited most from the increased opportunities available to women in the period c1918–1980.' Did they?

### **Education**

**2011** 'The experience of the twentieth century suggests that the less government has interfered in education policy the more effective state education has been.' Discuss the validity of this statement with respect **either** to the period 1918–51 **or** to the period 1951–2000.

**2012** To what extent did the Education Acts passed in the first half of the twentieth century increase opportunities for the working classes in England and Wales?

**2013** What best explains why educational policies caused such political controversy in the period 1944 to c.2000?

**2014** 'Good intentions but ineffective outcomes.' To what extent do you accept this assessment of education policies in the period c.1930 to c. 2000?

**2015** Which was the more important development: selective secondary education after 1944 or the expansion of comprehensive education in the 1960s and 1970s?

**2016** Why, in this period, did central government become increasingly interventionist in its education policies?

**2017** How effective in improving educational standards were government initiatives in the period 1944–2000?

**2018** How far did comprehensive education in the period c1960 to c2000 meet its objectives?

**2019** Why was there so much debate about grammar schools in the second half of the twentieth century?

### **The Welfare State**

**2013** 'In the second half of the twentieth century, the welfare state created more problems than it solved.' Discuss.

**2015** How effectively did the Welfare State tackle problems of poverty in the second half of the twentieth century?

**2019** How important were the two world wars in the development of the welfare state?

### **The NHS**

**2014** Why was the National Health Service such an important political issue in the period 1948 to c.2000?

**2016** Why, in the second half of the twentieth century, was the reputation of the National Health Service generally so high?

**2017** Why, during the second half of the twentieth century, did the National Health Service come under increasingly critical scrutiny?

### **Race & immigration**

**2011** Explain which factors most altered race relations in Britain in the period from c.1945 to c.1980.

**2012** 'Racial and ethnic integration in Britain was less pronounced at the end of the twentieth century than it had been in c.1950.' Discuss.

**2014** 'By 2000, Britain had become "an unselfconsciously multi-cultural society".' Discuss.

**2016** Explain why, in the second half of the twentieth century, the achievement of harmonious race relations proved more difficult in some areas of the country than in others.

**2017** Assess the impact of immigration in British society in this period.

### **Leisure and popular culture**

**2011** To what extent has television had a coarsening effect on British popular culture? Discuss with reference to the period since c.1960.

**2012** How is the increased influence of popular and 'celebrity' culture on British society in the second half of the twentieth century best explained?

**2012** 'Our mission is to enrich people's lives with programmes and services which inform, educate and entertain.' In which of these three objectives was the BBC most successful during the twentieth century?

**2013** What best explains the expansion of leisure opportunities in this period?

**2013** Assess the impact of popular newspapers on British culture in the later late-twentieth century.

**2014** How important was the cinema in the development of popular culture in Britain in the period c.1918 to c.1960?

**2014** 'In the last thirty years of the twentieth century, the ethics of professional sport were undermined by those of big business.' Discuss.

**2015** How effectively, since c. 1946, has television responded to changing social attitudes and priorities?

**2015** What best explains the growing influence of popular culture on British society in the second half of the twentieth century?

**2016** Examine the view that, despite its development in this period, popular culture had no significant impact on British political life.

**2017** How great an impact did television have on popular culture in the second half of the twentieth century?]

**2018** Assess the impact of radio on British society in this period.

**2018** How, and why, did opportunities for holidays increase in the period c1918 to c1970?

**2019** To what extent, in the second half of the twentieth century, did the development of popular culture increase awareness of national identity?