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# AS HISTORY

Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964

Component 1G Victorian and Edwardian Britain, c1851–1914

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Wednesday 18 May 2016      Afternoon      Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/1G.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

## Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

For about twenty years, from 1886, the dividing line between parties was that between 'Home Rulers' and 'Unionists'. The Liberal Party's commitment to Home Rule necessitated an alliance with the Irish Nationalist Party, without the support of which it could not acquire a parliamentary majority. The Liberals found themselves restricted given that the Irish issue was undoubtedly a vote-loser, the key issue keeping them out of government and turning the drift to the Right into a landslide. The Liberal Party frittered away much of the 1890s and the opening years of the new century on in-fighting and searching for unity. The Liberals only won a majority in 1906 because the Conservatives had managed to alienate almost every interest group in the land.

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Adapted from G R Searle, *The Liberal Party*, 2001**Extract B**

The turning point in late Victorian politics came in 1886, decisively breaking the long-standing Liberal hold on power. How are we to account for this? To a large extent the Conservatives were simply lucky: Gladstone's dramatic conversion to Home Rule hastened a split that had long been coming. However, the Conservative revival cannot be explained entirely by luck. The Conservatives had strengths too. The cautious financial policies adopted by Conservative governments helped to consolidate the new alliance with the middle classes. Party organisation was strengthened, covering nearly all parts of the country; the Conservatives clearly held together a wide range of support in all social classes sufficient to keep the party in power for the best part of twenty years.

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Adapted from Martin Pugh, *State and Society, 1870–1997*, 1999

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the Conservative dominance of politics in the years 1886 to 1905?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**Either**

**0 2** 'Victorian governments in the years 1867 to 1886 had little interest in social reform.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3** 'The problems of the British economy in the years 1874 to 1914 were due to Free Trade.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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