

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GCSE**

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HISTORY B (MODERN WORLD)

British Depth Study, 1890–1918

SOURCE BOOKLET

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2013: Morning

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HOW WAS BRITISH SOCIETY CHANGED, 1890–1918?

THE HOME FRONT DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The First World War broke out in 1914. For four years the people of Britain were part of a total war. This meant that the whole population was expected to support the war effort. This could mean joining the armed forces, working in essential industries or simply saving scrap metal or food. The government demanded the support of the whole population for the war effort, but did the people of Britain do as the government asked?

SOURCE A



A poster published by the British government in 1915. The title is 'Are YOU in this?' The man on the right is wearing a suit and bow tie and has his hands in his pockets as he looks at men and women who are working. There is an ironworker, a nurse and a woman making bullets at a table. In the background a soldier and a sailor are watching out. The sailor is ready to fire a cannon and the soldier is pointing a rifle. A boy scout is handing a package to the soldier. Beside them is a union flag.

SOURCE B

Many difficulties facing the recruitment drive have been tackled and I judge that on the whole the campaign has been a success overall. But we have not achieved the numbers we wanted. It may be that some compulsion is the only answer, however unpleasant that may be.

The chief difficulty in getting volunteers has been the question of who should and should not join up. Parents and relations cannot understand why their sons, husbands, or brothers should join while other young men hold back and gain well-paid jobs at home.

It is not lack of courage or belief in our cause that is stopping men joining up. The country as a whole is determined to support you, our Prime Minister, in your promise to defeat Germany. There is plenty of evidence that the country is determined to see the war through to a successful end. The country will, in my judgement, accept the introduction of conscription under these circumstances.

A report written by Lord Derby to other ministers in the government in December 1915.

Lord Derby was the government minister in charge of recruiting.

SOURCE C

Dear Sir

We understand that next Tuesday, Parliament may discuss the issue of conscription as a result of the failure of Lord Derby's recent recruiting campaign to gain enough recruits for the Army.

We feel we must point out that any system of conscription for the purpose of carrying on war is against our religious and conscientious beliefs. We will not take part in the slaughter of our fellow men. Nor can we undertake any alternative form of service. We will remain true to our conviction whatever Parliament decides on this immensely controversial issue.

We must also warn you that there is much concern in the country against conscription and you will face considerable opposition.

A letter from the No Conscription Fellowship to the government written in December 1915.

SOURCE D

PACIFIST CONFERENCE BROKEN UP IN SOUTH WALES STORMING OF MEETING HALL. (FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Cardiff has been the site of a famous victory for patriotism over disloyal pacifists. It was won in a fair fight by the working people of Cardiff and Cardiff is very proud of the result.

Yesterday afternoon the peacemongers assembled together to pressure the government to take actions which would harm the vital interests of their country. A great mass of loyal citizens was unable to contain their rage and stormed the hall where the pacifists were meeting. For the most part, the police only looked on as spectators. The city put to flight the traitors and at the same time secured its own fair fame as the great industrial and loyal capital of Wales.

From a newspaper report published in Britain in 1916.

SOURCE E



THE BIG PUSH

MUNITION WORKER: "Well, I'm not taking a holiday myself just yet, but I'm sending these kids of mine for a little trip on the Continent."

A cartoon published in August 1916. The title is 'The Big Push'. A Munition Worker is pushing a trolley full of munition shells out of a factory. The shells have smiling faces on them. The man is saying: 'Well, I'm not taking a holiday myself just yet, but I'm sending these kids of mine for a little trip on the Continent.'

SOURCE F

MAINTAINING COAL PRODUCTION

There have been major obstacles in maintaining production under war conditions. There have been difficulties in finding enough men to work in the mines as well as disputes between miners and their employers.

Another difficulty is absenteeism. Absenteeism generally tends to increase when wages rise and so men take days off work. Appeals to the patriotism of miners and other workers have helped to some extent. Nevertheless, there is still a regrettable amount of absenteeism. Up to 20% of working days are lost in some mines.

In these difficult circumstances it is regrettable that coal prices have risen and there have been shortages, but it cannot be avoided.

From a report by the Minister of Labour in 1916.

Absenteeism = taking time off work without a good reason.

SOURCE G



A GERMAN DECORATION FOR BRITISH STRIKERS

A cartoon published in a British magazine in 1917. The title is, 'A German decoration for British strikers', and above that it says 'For services rendered'. A hand is shown coming down out of the sky and presenting a large medal in the shape of a cross to a man who is hidden around a corner outside a factory and smoking a pipe. The Iron Cross was an award given to German soldiers for serving their country well.

END OF SOURCE BOOKLET



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