

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS Level
Y140
HISTORY A
From Pitt to Peel: Britain 1783–1853

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2016: Afternoon
TIME ALLOWED: 1 hour 30 minutes
plus your additional time allowance
MODIFIED ENLARGED 24pt

YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

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INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE question in Section B.

Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 50.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

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SECTION A

Peel and the Age of Reform 1832–1853

Study these three sources and then answer BOTH questions.

- 1 Use your knowledge of the Corn Laws to assess how useful Source B is as evidence for the debate within the Conservative Party about the repeal of the Corn Laws. [10]**
- 2 Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Peel put the interests of the country above those of the Conservative Party. [20]**

SOURCE A

Peel outlines his attitude and approach towards the idea of reform.

I consider the Reform Bill a final and irreversible settlement of a great constitutional question. If by adopting the spirit of the Reform Bill, it is meant that public men can only support themselves in public estimation by promising the instant redress of anything which anybody may call an abuse, I will not undertake to adopt it. But if the spirit of the Reform Bill implies merely a careful review of institutions, civil and church, combining the firm maintenance of established rights with the correction of proved abuses - in that case, I can undertake to act in such a spirit and with such intention.

‘The Tamworth Manifesto’, 1834

SOURCE B

The Chancellor of the Exchequer writes to Peel about his decision to repeal the Corn Laws in a letter marked ‘Private and Confidential’.

An abandonment of your former opinions now would prejudice our characters as public men, and have fatal results for the country’s best interests. Unlike you, I do not think the repeal of the Corn Laws will relieve the present distress or increase this year’s supply. So long as the party of which you are the head remains unbroken, it has the means of doing much good. But if it be broken in pieces (and repeal would produce that result) I see nothing before us but class conflict, a struggle for power, and the ultimate triumph of unrestrained democracy.

Henry Goulburn, ‘letter’, 30 November 1845

SOURCE C

An inexpensive and popular weekly paper comments on the death of Sir Robert Peel.

He fell from official power into the arms of the people, who applauded him on the evening of his resignation. The spontaneous feeling of gratitude which prompted such a response has since widened as his motives – the unselfish, self-sacrificing spirit which dictated his public conduct – are better understood. Truth and justice have always inspired his acts. The people felt instinctively that he was pure and good; for what had he, raised aloft by a powerful and wealthy party, to gain by stooping from that dazzling height to raise up the humble from the mud into which legislation had so long trampled them.

Robert Chambers, ‘Papers for the People’, July 1850

SECTION B

British Government in the Age of Revolution 1783–1832

Answer ONE question.

3* To what extent do the governments of 1822 to 1830 deserve to be known as ‘liberal Tories’? [20]

4* ‘Fear of radicalism was the most important reason for the opposition to parliamentary reform in the period from 1783 to 1830.’ How far do you agree? [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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