

WJEC GCSE History

Sample responses

UNIT 1 STUDY IN DEPTH – WALES AND THE WIDER PERSPECTIVE

1C. Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951

QUESTION 2

This question is about life during the Depression.

Study the source below and then answer the question which follows.

Source C

It's not all sad. We still have good times. Everyone is in the same situation. A lot of people in our street have been on holiday, camping or to Barry Island. My husband has a job in the docks and it pays a good wage. There is always plenty of food in the shops, as long as you have money to buy it.

[Mrs Catherine Reason, a young mother in Cardiff, being interviewed for a radio programme on the Depression in 1938.]

To what extent does this source accurately explain the impact of the Depression on people in Wales and England? [6]

[In your answer you should refer to the strengths and limitations of the source and use your own knowledge and understanding of the historical context.]

Candidate A

Source C tells me that not all people suffered during the Depression. In Cardiff there was plenty of food in the shops and people were still able to go on holiday. Mrs Reason was a young mother in Cardiff during the Depression so the source is fairly accurate as she was there at the time. Her husband had a job that paid good wages, so she did not suffer any hardship.

Analysis

- There is a limited attempt to analyse the source.
- The response does contain a simple judgement about the accuracy of the source putting it into AO3 Band 2.
- Has basic level of knowledge to support the judgement putting the response into AO1 Band 1.

AO1: Band 1 - Demonstrates some understanding of the key feature in the question.

AO3: Band 2 - Begins to analyse and evaluate the source. A judgement, with some support is reached, discussing the accuracy of the source material set within the historical context.

AO1 – 1/2

AO3 – 2/4

Total – 3/6

Candidate B

Source C tells us that life was not difficult for everyone during the Depression. Mrs Reason lived in Cardiff at the time, and feels that there was enough food available and people were still able to go on holiday. Her husband had a job which paid a good wage so her family did not suffer any hardship. As Mrs Reason lived through the Depression, her account of the experience of it is fairly accurate because she has personal experience of it. There were many who had a similar experience. There were plenty of new job opportunities such as with the Morris Car Company in Oxford, and many people in Wales and England were able to move there to gain employment.

However, Mrs Reason's account is not very accurate as she does not take into account the hardships suffered by those living in other areas of Wales and England. She is only talking about her own experience in a particular area of Cardiff, while large areas of the country suffered tremendous hardship. She does not consider the experience of people living in areas like the Rhondda and Jarrow, where high scale unemployment made life extremely difficult and led to hunger marches and poverty.

Analysis

- Candidate B uses specific knowledge in support which is a Band 2 response in AO1.
- There is a clear and substantiated judgement about the accuracy of the source.
- The response considers both strengths and limitations of the source with clear reference to the context in which it was written which puts the response into Band 3 for AO3.

AO1: Band 2 - Demonstrates detailed understanding of the key feature in the question.

AO3: Band 3 - Analyses and evaluates the accuracy of the source, set within the context of the historical events studied. The strengths and limitations of the source material are fully addressed and a substantiated judgement is reached.

AO1 – 2/2

AO3 – 4/4

Total – 6/6

QUESTION 4

This question is about rebuilding the country after 1945.

Explain the connections between any **THREE** of the following: [12]

- The Beveridge Report
- The National Health Service
- Nationalisation of key industries
- 'Homes for All' policy

Candidate A

Your three choices:

- The Beveridge Report
- The National Health Service
- Nationalisation of key industries

The Beveridge Report highlighted the need to improve people's lives by abolishing problems such as want, squalor and disease in Britain. It claimed that the government should look after British citizens.

The Beveridge Report wanted to improve the health of the nation so this is connected to the establishment of the National Health Service. It was set up in 1948 to provide free medical treatment for all for the first time.

Nationalisation was when the Labour government took over certain industries like coal to improve conditions for workers, so this was also connected to the Beveridge Report.

Analysis

- Candidate A demonstrates a good knowledge of the topic and is awarded Band 2 for AO1.
- The response makes general connections between the features chosen which places it into Band 2 for AO2.
- It has been awarded high Band 2 (4 marks) as it begins to show a connection between some of the features.

AO1: Band 2 - Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of the key features in the question.

AO2: Band 2 - Begins to explain the connections between the chosen features.

AO1 – 2/2

AO2 – 4/10

Total - 6/12

Candidate B

Your three choices:

- The Beveridge Report
- The National Health Service
- 'Homes for All' policy

The Beveridge Report of 1942 highlighted the need to improve people's lives by abolishing 'want' in Britain. It was written by William Beveridge, a Liberal MP, and also identified other problems such as ignorance, squalor, idleness and disease. It claimed that the government should look after British citizens, and proposed a system of social security that would be implemented at the end of the war.

The Beveridge Report is connected to the establishment of the National Health Service as it highlighted the need to improve the health of the nation. When Labour came to power in 1945 it set out to carry out the recommendations of the Beveridge Report. Aneurin Bevan, the Minister of Health, established the National Health Service in 1948. It was set up to provide free medical treatment for all for the first time. The Beveridge Report had advised that the state should attack the 'five giants' responsible for the problems faced by ordinary people, one of which was disease so the establishment of the National Health Service addressed one of the key recommendations of the Beveridge Report. Bevan's vision was a nation that took care of its people 'from the cradle to the grave'. In the beginning everything was provided from hospital accommodation, medicine and dental care. However, by 1951 charges had to be introduced as the service cost too much.

Labour's 'Homes for All' policy is also connected to the Beveridge Report as it was the government's way of tackling the problem of 'squalor', mentioned in the report. Beveridge had identified poor or slum housing as one of his giants. He believed that it was one of the major factors behind poverty and despair in Britain. Under Aneurin Bevan, the government followed an ambitious policy called 'Homes for All'. The government built pre-fab homes to temporarily deal with the issue. The government also built new council houses and towns such as Stevenage.

Analysis

- Detailed and specific knowledge places this response in Band 2 for AO1.
- Candidate B has put the connections into the correct historical context.
- The response was rewarded with Band 4 for AO2 because a detailed and relevant explanation is provided for the connections.

AO1: Band 2 - Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of the key features in the question.

AO2: Band 4 - Fully explains the relevant connections between the chosen features, set within the correct historical context.

AO1: 2/2

AO2: 10/10

Total 12/12

Candidate C

Your three choices:

- The Beveridge Report
- The National Health Service
- 'Homes for All' policy

The Beveridge Report of 1942 was written by William Beveridge, a Liberal MP. It identified the problems facing Britain such as want, ignorance, squalor, idleness and disease. The Beveridge Report is connected to the establishment of the National Health Service as it highlighted the need to improve the health of the nation. Aneurin Bevan, the Minister of Health, established the National Health Service in 1948. It was set up to provide free medical treatment for all for the first time. The Beveridge Report had advised that the state should attack the 'five giants' responsible for the problems faced by ordinary people, one of which was disease so the establishment of the National Health Service addressed one of the key recommendations of the Beveridge Report. Bevan wanted to look after people 'from the cradle to the grave'.

Labour's 'Homes for All' policy is also connected to the Beveridge Report. Beveridge believed that poor housing was one of the major factors behind poverty in Britain. The government built pre-fab homes to temporarily deal with the issue.

Analysis

- Detailed and specific knowledge places this response in Band 2 for AO1.
- Candidate C has put the connections into the correct historical context.
- The response was rewarded with Band 3 for AO2 because while it does give a relevant explanation for the connections, it lacks some development.

AO1: Band 2 - Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of the key features in the question.

AO2: Band 3 - Explains the connections between the chosen features, set within the correct historical context.

AO1: 2/2

AO2: 7/10

Total 9/12