



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Unit Y143

Britain 1930–1997

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.16

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



First name										
Last name										
Centre number						Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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 (*).
- This document consists of **8** pages.

Section A

Churchill 1930–1951

Study the three sources and then answer **both** questions.

- 1** Use your knowledge of rearmament in the 1930s to assess how useful Source B is as evidence for the weakness of Britain's armed forces in the 1930s.

[10]

- 2** Using these three sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Churchill was proposing unrealistic policies with regard to gaining international support against Hitler in the 1930s.

[20]

Source A: In his account of the lead up to the war, Churchill comments on government policy.

It would have been possible in 1933 or even 1934 for Britain to have created an air force which would have imposed the necessary restraints on Hitler's ambitions or, perhaps, would have enabled the military leaders of Germany to control his violent acts. Had we acted with reasonable prudence and healthy energy, war might never have come to pass. Based on superior air power, Britain and France could safely have invoked the aid of the League of Nations, and all the states of Europe would have gathered behind them.

Churchill, The Gathering Storm, 1948

Source B: Britain's military leaders offer a view of the defence situation in 1937 which was discussed in the British cabinet.

Our naval, military and air forces in their present stages of development are still far from sufficient to meet our defence commitments, which now extend from Western Europe through the Mediterranean to the Far East. Without overlooking the assistance we might obtain from France, and other possible allies, we cannot foresee the time when our defence forces will be strong enough to safeguard our territory, trade and vital interests against Germany, Italy and Japan simultaneously. We must stress the importance of any political or international action to reduce the numbers of our potential enemies.

Chiefs of Staff, memorandum, 8 December 1937

Source C: In a letter to his sister, the Prime Minister reflects on Churchill's proposals for changes in foreign policy.

The plan of the Grand Alliance, as Winston calls it, had occurred to me long before he mentioned it. I talked about it to Halifax, and we submitted it to the Chiefs of Staff and Foreign Office experts. There is everything to be said for it until you come to examine its practicability. From that moment, its attraction vanishes. You only have to look at the map to see that nothing that France or Britain could do could possibly save Czechoslovakia from being overrun by the Germans if they wanted to do so.

Chamberlain, letter, 20 March 1938

Section B

Britain 1951–1997

Answer **ONE** question.

EITHER

- 3*** ‘The most important reason for Conservative political domination in the period from 1979 to 1997 was the weakness of the Labour party.’ How far do you agree?

[20]

OR

- 4*** Assess the reasons for the changing attitudes of British governments towards Europe in the period from 1951 to 1997.

[20]

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Source C: The Life of Neville Chamberlain, Keith Feiling, Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1946

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