

## **HISTORY – BRITISH ISLES**

Time Allowed – 90 minutes

**Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B. An asterisk \* indicates a question on Welsh History.**

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### **SECTION A**

1. How may historians distinguish between those facts about the past that actually matter and those that do not?
2. Which historian's work have you most enjoyed reading, and why?
3. Will the rise of social media deprive future historians of their more traditional sources or prove to be a valuable resource to them?
4. At what point can 'the British Isles' be said to have been politically integrated?
5. Should British history be considered part of European history?
6. 'For a country said to be obsessed with its past, Britain has a politics in which there is little understanding of the legacy of the past' (Helen Thompson, May 2017). Discuss.

### **SECTION B**

#### **Early and Medieval Period**

7. Why does King Alfred remain the only English King to have been called 'the Great'?
8. 'The regime established in England by William... has elements which we would now regard as colonial' (Professor David Bates). Discuss this assessment of the reign of William the Conqueror and the Norman conquest of England, 1066-1087.

9. Assess the significance of Magna Carta.
10. What were the effects on Wales of the existence of the Anglo-Norman polity as its immediate neighbour? Discuss with reference to the period before 1277.\*
11. Why did Edward I succeed in conquering Wales?\*
12. To what extent does Edward III deserve to be called the 'perfect king'?
13. What was the impact of the Hundred Years' War on the economy and society?
14. Assess the impact of the Wars of the Roses on late medieval English society.
15. What were the causes of the Glyndŵr Rebellion in Wales in the early fifteenth century?\*
16. In what ways did English society undergo social and economic change between 1200 and 1500?
17. Describe and explain the impact of plague in medieval Britain.

#### Early Modern Period

18. Did Henry VIII's split from Rome make the 'Acts of Union' necessary?\*
19. Should Elizabeth I be considered a generous patron of the Welsh language?\*
20. 'Tudor rule brought few benefits to the lower orders of society'. Discuss.
21. To what extent did the sixteenth century witness the rise of the gentry?
22. 'His achievement was transient and in the short and medium term negative.' (John Morrill). Discuss this view of Oliver Cromwell.
23. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Tudor and/or Stuart monarchy.
24. What primary sources can we use to understand the world of Tudor and/or Stuart Britain, and what risks are there in using these?
25. Assess the impact of the Enlightenment on Britain during the long eighteenth century.
26. What were the causes of the Industrial Revolution?

#### Modern Period

27. 'To understand the history of the modern world one needs to understand the history of its mass media'. Do you agree?

28. How widespread in Britain was sympathy for the French Revolution?
29. Did the living standards of the British population improve or deteriorate as a result of the industrial revolution?
30. Has the importance of Chartism been exaggerated?
31. 'A creditable portion of Welsh history.' Do you agree with this judgement about the Rebecca riots in south-west Wales, 1839-44?\*
32. What do you regard as the most compelling feature of British imperialism in the period 1870-1914 – economic domination, missionary activity or military might?
33. Was the First World War a turning point in the history of modern Wales?\*
34. To what extent can British feminism before 1897 be described as a movement?
35. Why did the Liberal Party governments of the Edwardian period pass social reform?
36. Why did the Liberal Party dominate Welsh politics between 1868 and 1922?\*
37. 'Never did a ship founder with a captain and a crew more ignorant of the reasons for its misfortune or more impotent to do anything about it' (E. J. Hobsbawm). Is this a fair assessment of the performance of British governments in the interwar economic depression?
38. Why were the effects of the inter-war depression worse in south Wales than in other parts of Britain?\*
39. Was Chamberlain right to appease Hitler in the 1930s?
40. Why did the interwar depression in the twentieth century have such a devastating impact on Wales?\*
41. Assess the impact of EITHER the First OR the Second World War on the position of women in Britain.
42. Why did the Labour Party win the 1945 general election?
43. Was there a social revolution in Britain in the 1960s?
44. The centenary commemorations of the First World War have simplified and distorted the history of that event by focusing on the experience of the trenches alone.' Do you agree?