

HISTORY – THE BRITISH ISLES

Time Allowed – 1.5 hours

Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.

An asterisk * indicates a question on Welsh History.

SECTION A

1. Why has a Marxist approach to the past lost ground in the last 50 years?
2. Is the idea of the 'early modern period' really just a convenient organizing device for historians?
3. Which historian has had the greatest influence on you, and why?
4. To what extent does historical knowledge change over time?
5. 'All historians have their biases; the aim of history is to understand those biases.' Discuss.
6. What are the challenges for the historian in identifying causation?

SECTION B

Early and Medieval Period

7. How justified was William the Conqueror's claim to the English throne?
8. Assess the impact of the Norman Conquest on Britain.
9. Why was England conquered twice in the eleventh century?
10. Was King John a bad king?
11. Why did Magna Carta fail in 1215?
12. Analyse the main features of Angevin kingship.
13. Is 'the First English Empire' a useful term to describe English overlordship in the British Isles from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries?
14. Assess the impact of the Hundred Years' War on England in the later Middle Ages?

15. What were the consequences of the Glyndŵr Rebellion? *
16. In what ways was the power of the king limited in later medieval England?
17. What caused peasants to revolt in the middle ages?
18. How 'English' was medieval England?
19. When did the Middle Ages end? Please provide a full explanation for your answer.

Early Modern Period

20. To what extent was Henry VIII a Protestant?
21. Would you agree that Elizabeth I's gained success by being 'decisively indecisive'?
22. 'By 1603 England was a Protestant nation, but not a nation of Protestants' (Christopher Haigh).
Discuss.
23. Is there any evidence that the Tudors had a special relationship with the people of Wales?*
24. Was Wales a Protestant country by 1603?*
25. Was the English civil war a war of religion?
26. Was Wales really a royalist stronghold during the Civil Wars?*
27. Would it be more accurate to refer to the 'Glorious Revolution' as a successful invasion?

Modern Period

28. Was fear the main response to the French Revolution in Britain?
29. To what extent was suffragette militancy harmful to the British suffrage campaign?
30. Why was the Irish Question so difficult to resolve in the period 1885-1914?
31. What impact did new communication technologies like the telegraph have on Victorian society?
32. What considerations motivated Liberal governments to undertake social reform in the Edwardian period?
33. How do you explain the continuing success of the Liberal Party in Welsh politics in the period 1869-1914? *
34. What factors account for the 'Great Unrest' in industrial south Wales before the First World War?*
35. Was the First World War a turning point in Welsh history? *
36. What role, if any, did the First World War play in the emancipation of women?
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). To what extent do you

agree with this estimation of interwar British governments and their handling of the economic depression?

38. Why did the interwar depression have such a devastating impact on Wales? *
39. Did the south Wales coalfield deserve its reputation for industrial militancy in the twentieth century? *
40. Has the centenary commemoration of the First World War in Britain focused on those who died at the expense of historical understanding?
41. To what extent was there a post-war consensus among political parties on the welfare state?
42. To what extent was Britain involved in the Cold War?
43. Assess the impact of post-war immigration from the Commonwealth on British culture, society and economy.