|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Entrance Examination**  **May 2021** |
| **HISTORY – THE BRITISH ISLES**  Time allowed: 1.5 hours (90 minutes)  **Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B**  An Asterisk \* indicates a question on Welsh History | |

**SECTION A**

1. What, if anything, is the difference between history and heritage?
2. Can historians achieve absolute objectivity in their research?
3. In what ways can historians use oral histories to write about past events?
4. How can historians account for bias in their primary sources?
5. To what extent is history written by the victors?
6. Have individuals ever really changed the course of history?

**SECTION B**

**Early and Medieval Period**

1. Account for Alfred’s success against the Vikings.
2. To what extent was 1066 a watershed in British history?
3. What were the main factors which led to the signing of Magna Carta?
4. Why was Edward III considered to be such a successful king in the later medieval period?
5. How ‘European’ was medieval Britain?
6. Why did the barons take up arms against King John?
7. Discuss the causes of the peasants’ revolt in 1381.
8. What were the reasons for Welsh rebellions following the Edwardian Conquest?\*
9. To what extent did Owain Glyndŵr unite Wales during his rebellion?\*
10. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of one medieval monarch.
11. Where should historians place the dividing line between the medieval and early modern periods?

**Early Modern Period**

1. At what point in his reign might Henry VII have felt secure on his throne?
2. Was Thomas Cromwell the mastermind of major change during Henry VIII's reign?
3. Would you agree that the 'Acts of Union' were passed solely to benefit the Tudor dynasty and not the people of Wales?\*
4. Why was planning the marriage of a reigning queen like Elizabeth I so fraught with difficulty?
5. To what extent was the translation of the Bible into Welsh responsible for the survival of the Welsh language?\*
6. Was civil war the inevitable outcome of Charles I's period of personal rule?
7. Why was the Commonwealth period so deeply unpopular in Wales?\*
8. To what extent was the 'Glorious Revolution' even a revolution?
9. Why were people drawn to migrate to the new industrial communities in Wales?\*

**Modern Period**

1. To what extent was the industrial revolution a turning point in modern history?
2. Was the 1832 Reform Act a success or a failure for its supporters?
3. How successful was Chartism as a political movement?
4. What were the causes of the Rebecca riots (1839-44)?\*
5. Would you agree that the public health movement was intended to ensure political stability?
6. Was suffragette militancy harmful to the suffrage movement?
7. How successful were interwar British governments in their attempts to lessen unemployment?
8. What were Churchill’s main strengths and weaknesses as an Allied war leader 1940-45?
9. Why did the British people vote Churchill back into power in 1951?
10. To what extent did consensus characterise British politics between 1945 and 1979?
11. Examine the impact of the 1857 Indian rebellion on the administrative structure of the British Empire.
12. Account for the changing British policy towards Kenya in 1960 under Macmillan.
13. How was British rule opposed by people in the colonies? Answer with particular reference to one case-study.
14. Explain the appeal of Disraeli’s Conservative Party.
15. How would you account for the rise of Labour in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century?
16. What was ‘Thatcherism’?