

## **History – The British Isles**

Time allowed: 1.5 hours (90 minutes)

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

### **Section A**

1. What challenges do historians face when using chronicles as sources?
2. Would you agree that personal diaries are too tainted by their writers' desire to paint themselves in a positive light to be of any value to historians?
3. What is the difference between a primary and secondary source and how do historians use both to understand the past?
4. Why must historians consider the production of a written source, such as who wrote it and when, when analysing its contents?
5. In what ways can visual and material sources be used by historians? Please provide specific examples.
6. Which historian has had the greatest influence on your understanding of history, and why?

### **Section B**

#### Medieval Period

7. To what extent was William the Conqueror's claim to the English throne justified?
8. Who was to blame for the dispute between Henry II and Thomas Becket?
9. What were the consequences of the invasion of Ireland under Henry II?
10. To what extent was the absence of Richard I damaging for England during his kingship?
11. To what extent can John be viewed as a bad king?
12. To what extent did Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (the Last) create a united Welsh principality?
13. Why did the Glyndŵr Rebellion fail to achieve its aims?
14. Was the Church more of a divisive or a unifying factor in later medieval England and Wales?
15. To what extent were kings in medieval England able to exert their power over their nobility?

### Early Modern Period

16. Would you agree that Spain was the main focus of foreign policy for Tudor monarchs?
17. Would you agree that the Welshness of Henry VII has often been exaggerated and that he did little for Wales after becoming king?
18. To what extent was there a 'mid-Tudor crisis'?
19. To what extent had Wales been integrated into the kingdom of England by the end of the sixteenth century?
20. Why did rebellion present so many problems for Tudor and/or Stuart monarchs?
21. To what extent was the English Civil War a religious war?

### Modern Period

22. For most working people the crucial experience of the Industrial Revolution was felt in terms of changes in the nature and intensity of exploitation' (E. P. Thompson). Discuss.
23. Should the Chartist movement be considered a failure?
24. What factors explain the rise of the Labour Party in the Edwardian period?
25. Analyse the relationship between the production of tea and sugar in British colonies and the consumption habits of the Victorian public.
26. Why did women in Britain get the vote in 1918?
27. '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' (Hobsbawm). Would you agree with this assessment of British governments in the 1930s?
28. To what extent did the Beveridge Report offer a radical vision of social reform?
29. Did the creation of the NHS constitute a significant break with the past in terms of medical and health-care provision in Britain?
30. To what extent did the Suez Crisis accelerate the decolonisation of the British Empire?
31. In what ways was post-war British society shaped by immigrants from former British colonies?