

HISTORY – 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. Historians claim that they use primary sources ‘critically’. What do they mean?
2. How should historians judge between those facts about the past which matter, and those which do not?
3. What obstacles stand in the way of writing the histories of ordinary people, and how may they be overcome?
4. Can historians ever write history impartially?
5. In what ways is historical knowledge useful to society?
6. Does history support the case for Brexit?

SECTION B

Early and Medieval Period

7. To what extent can we describe English domination of the British Isles in the Middle Ages as ‘the first English empire’ (R.R. Davies)?
8. Did 1066 really mark a watershed in English history?
9. How significant was the Black Death in shaping late medieval Britain?
10. Was King John a tyrant, or was he just unlucky?

11. Why did the Hundred Years' War last so long?
12. Assess the impact of the Wars of the Roses on late medieval English society.
13. What were the causes of the Glyndŵr Rebellion in Wales in the early fifteenth century?*

Early Modern Period

14. Did Henry VII deserve to be described as 'a Moses who delivered his people from bondage'?*
15. Would you agree with Glanmor Williams' suggestion that the passing of the Acts of Union had nothing to do with Wales?*
16. Was Wales a Protestant country by 1603?*
17. In what ways did the Welsh gentry increase their wealth and power under Tudor rule?*
18. Why did the parliamentary cause not gain greater support among the people of Wales?*
19. Why is Henry VIII's Break with Rome not regarded as a Big Mistake?
20. How far, and in what ways, did the Renaissance affect the British Isles?
21. Were Elizabeth I's later years filled with problems?
22. Why did the accession of an adult, married Scottish king with children in 1603 not provoke more resistance in England and Wales?
23. To what extent did the execution of Charles I in 1649 change the course of British history?
24. How far may Tudor and/or Stuart Britain be said to have been in a constant state of social crisis?
25. Which of Britain's seventeenth-century turning points should we regard as the first modern revolution: 1642 or 1688?
26. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of any one early-modern British monarch.
27. How serious a problem was poverty in Tudor and/or Stuart Britain?
28. What were the causes of the Industrial Revolution?

Modern Period

29. 'To understand the history of the modern world one needs to understand the history of its mass media'. Do you agree?
30. How widespread in Britain was sympathy for the French Revolution?
31. Explain the existence of large-scale protest movements such as the Rebecca riots in Wales during the 1830s and 1840s.*
32. What were the objectives of Chartism?
33. Account for the popularity of the Whig Interpretation of History in the nineteenth century.
34. To whom did Imperialism appeal, and why? Discuss with reference to Victorian and Edwardian Britain.
35. Is it accurate to think of Liberalism in Wales in the period 1868-1914 as a national movement?*
36. Was the First World War a turning point in the history of modern Wales?*
37. Was the Liberal Party already in terminal decline before 1914?
38. Assess the impact of the First World War on British society.
39. 'Achieving the vote in 1928 made little difference to ordinary women's lives.' Do you agree?
40. Why did the interwar depression in the twentieth century have such a devastating impact on Wales?*
41. Was there a social revolution in Britain in the 1960s?
42. 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?