Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1D: Britain, c1785–c1870: democracy, protest and reform

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/1D

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Jeremy Black, *Slavery*: *A New Global History*, published 2011.

It was not problems within the slave economy in the West Indies that led to the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. Instead, it is more appropriate to look at the changing mood in Britain itself. Pressure from Abolitionists changed the views within Westminster. It became the 'official view' that action against the slave trade was needed. The Abolitionists succeeded in marginalising the view of the West Indian planters who had profited most from the British and European demand for products such as sugar. A reforming liberal middle-class culture was becoming increasingly important, and was helping to define British values of civility and tolerance. The slave trade was the exact opposite of this civilising mission. The Abolitionists were given confidence by public support. This confidence helped to influence the debate within the elites, forcing the defenders of slavery onto the defensive. It was the desire of the middle-classes for humanitarian reform, not fear of revolution in the elites, that brought about abolition.

Extract 2: From Graham Ullathorne, *How Could We Do Without Sugar and Rum?*, published 2007.

It could well be argued that the passage of the 1807 Act owed a lot to the slave rebellions in the Caribbean and the successful revolution by former slaves in Haiti. In comparison, the abolitionists in Britain were less important. Although William Wilberforce was extremely eloquent and gained the support of Prime Minister William Pitt, eleven parliamentary bills for the abolition of the slave trade were defeated in the fifteen years to 1807.

Thomas Clarkson, and other white abolitionists, could stand in front of enthusiastic audiences to talk about the evils of slavery. But those audiences were more moved when a former slave stood up and lectured about his life. It had considerably more impact and disproved the stereotype of the African slave as a savage. Equiano's *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* indicated to literate society that there was no meaningful difference between black and white, free person and slave. Given an education and a chance in life they could be successful, despite the pro-slavery propaganda that suggested the opposite.

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