Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Friday 23 May 2025

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/1H**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1H: Britain transformed, 1918–97

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, published 2007.

The Conservatives under Thatcher were intent on creating a 'property-owning democracy' of voters whose interests were different from those traditionally associated with the working-class. There was now to be a large section of British society who were pro-private sector. These people were share-owners and home-owners, working in private companies and increasingly un-unionised. The despair of Labour politicians as they watched it working was obvious. The proportion of adults holding shares rose from 7 per cent in 1979, to 25 per cent in 1990. As a result of the 'right to buy' policy, more than a million families purchased their council houses. They repainted and refurbished them and watched their value shoot up, particularly since they had been sold them at a discount. The proportion of owner-occupied homes rose from 55 per cent of the total in 1979 to 67 per cent a decade later.

And people did indeed become much wealthier. In real terms, total personal wealth rose by 80 per cent in the 1980s. Most people had, in the end, done well under Thatcher, including her most hostile middle-class critics. The country was enjoying bigger cars, a far wider range of holidays, better food, a wider choice of television channels, home videos, and the first gadgets from the computer age.

Extract 2: From Selina Todd, *The People: The Rise and Fall of the Working Class, 1910–2010*, published 2014.

When Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, the bargain that had been struck between the people and their politicians – hard work in exchange for a living wage and a welfare safety net – came to an end. Unemployment increased, while benefits were cut. Economic inequality grew rapidly and the gap between rich and poor expanded in favour of the former. The hard times had returned.

Underpinning this was the Conservatives' belief that welfare and full employment had made people lazy and dependent on benefits. The government urged the voluntary sector to assist people instead. However, charities and voluntary provision alone could not offer sustained help to large numbers of people. As the economy failed to recover, those still in work were increasingly impacted by the stresses and strains of insecurity and limited welfare. As the trade unions' rights were stripped away, Britain became a low-wage economy.

The privatisation of housing and the other services previously offered by local councils removed these services from the control of elected officials. This removed much of the limited power that residents had previously exercised.

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: *A History of Modern Britain*, Andrew Marr © Blackwell Publishers Ltd, 2007

Extract 2 from: *The People: The Rise and Fall of the Working Class, 1910–2010*, Selina Todd © John Murray Press, 2014