Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Norman Barry, *Thatcher's Conservatism: a hypothesis*, published 2005.

A major part of Thatcher's strategy was to reduce the state to a smaller and more appropriate role. The privatisation programme became essential, not just for efficiency but as a big step in her dream to create a property-owning democracy. If people had a vested interest in society, they would be less likely to participate in destructive action. Similarly, the selling off of council houses was an outstanding success.

A major element in the attempt to return economic power to the people was tax cuts. The Conservatives inherited a ruinous tax policy: the rich left the country, avoided taxation or stopped working. The top rate of income tax was reduced to 40 per cent and the lower to 23 per cent, with no loss in revenue to the Exchequer.

Thatcher showed no fear of using the state in its legitimate role, for the preservation of ordered liberty. The trade unions were a powerful interest group that were entirely self-interested. She reduced their powers bit by bit, until the overall result was their total defeat. In doing so, Thatcher's strategy was to involve the union members themselves in decisions about their industries.

Extract 2: From David Childs, *Britain since 1939: Progress and Decline*, published 1995.

Within two years of Thatcher taking office, support for the new Liberal/SDP Alliance had reached 50.5 per cent in an opinion poll. Their call for consensus and co-operation seemed very attractive in strife-torn, rioting Britain.

A survey in October 1983 found that only 39 per cent of those interviewed thought the proposed privatisation of British Telecom was a good idea. The Conservatives' main concern was convincing a relatively small number of voters that their privatised shares would be at risk if Labour won; this would have a considerable impact in marginal constituencies.

Giving council tenants the 'right to buy' reduced the stock of homes available for the genuinely needy. The government took control of the money councils gained from the sales, making it very difficult to build new homes. Thus, the number of new council homes fell drastically. For whatever reason, homelessness increased.

In the 1987 election, the North/South divide seemed to be strengthening. In Wales, Plaid Cymru increased its representation, as did the SNP in Scotland. Whilst the Conservatives' 42.2 per cent was only slightly lower than the 42.4 per cent in 1983, they were in danger of becoming merely an English party.

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: 'Thatcher's Conservatism: a hypothesis', in Subroto Roy and John Clarke (eds), Margaret Thatcher's revolution', Norman Barry, Continuum Books

Extract 2 from: Britain since 1939: Progress and Decline, David Childs, Macmillan, 1995