Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/36**

History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928

Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From Samuel Bamford, *Passages in the Life of a Radical,* published 1843. Bamford was arrested on suspicion of high treason in 1817 but was acquitted due to lack of evidence. Here he is discussing radical activity in the years 1816–17.

There was a series of disturbances that continued until the end of 1816. In Dorset, there were riots because of the high price of bread. In Lancashire, the unemployed destroyed machinery. In South Wales, the disturbances were caused by a reduction of wages.

At this time, the writings of William Cobbett became widely read in many of the manufacturing districts. He explained to his readers the true cause of their sufferings – misgovernment. He also directed them to the solution for their sufferings – parliamentary reform. The number of riots now declined.

Instead of riots and the destruction of property, Hampden Clubs were now established in many of our large towns. Cobbett's books were printed in a cheap form. The labourers read them and started to organise. The Sunday Schools* of the preceding thirty years had enabled many working men to read and write. They were able to make speeches for parliamentary reform in the village meetings. These men encouraged others in the labouring classes to attend the weekly readings and discussions of the Hampden Clubs.

A Hampden Club was established in 1816 in the small town of Middleton in Lancashire. Having been involved in its formation, and able to read, I was chosen as secretary. The club prospered and the number of members increased. The funds raised by contributions of a penny a week were more than sufficient for all expenses. We held our meetings on Monday and Saturday evenings every week.

Meetings of delegates from the surrounding districts were held. At one meeting in December 1816, it was decided to send out missionaries to other towns and villages, particularly to Yorkshire. I believe that they made an impression that awakened our cause in that county. In early 1817, a meeting of delegates from twenty-one local Hampden Clubs was held. Resolutions were passed supporting the right of every male who paid taxes to vote; that males of eighteen should be eligible to vote; that parliaments should be elected annually; that every twenty thousand inhabitants should send an MP to the House of Commons.

The views and wishes of the reformers in those days were moderate. It was not until we were infiltrated by spies and agitators, who distracted, misled and betrayed us, that the use of physical force was mentioned amongst us. After that our moral power declined.

*Sunday Schools – schools providing a basic education for working class children who worked the rest of the week

Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From Charles Cameron, *Reminiscences of Sir Charles Cameron,* published 1913. Cameron was the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Dublin. He was involved in promoting public health in Dublin in the years 1862–1918. Here he is discussing the conditions of the working class in Dublin.

I have long thought that the proportion of the population belonging to the poorest classes is greater in Dublin than it is in England and Scotland. There is much evidence demonstrating the poverty of a considerable proportion of the population of Dublin. For example, 33.9 per cent of families resided in single rooms in Dublin in 1911. In many English towns, not more than 10 per cent of families occupy one room. Families living in a single room have a much higher death rate than those who have two or more rooms. Unsanitary homes cause illness and consequent poverty, and poverty causes the death rate amongst the poor to rise.

The wages of unskilled labourers are rarely more than £1 per week; many earn less. Even when the labourer is a hard-working man, and only has a small family, he cannot enjoy much comfort. If he has a large family and uncertain employment, it is easy to imagine his dreadful condition. If he was provided with a two-room dwelling at a fixed rent, with some expense borne by the ratepayers, all classes would benefit in terms of general public health.

There is little manufacturing work in Dublin. There is also comparatively less work for females in Dublin than in most English towns. The disadvantage of lack of employment for women is the smaller average earnings of families, with consequent lower standards of diet, lodging and clothing.

Amongst the labouring population, the children do not have proper clothing. Thousands of children go with naked feet, even in winter. The lack of warm clothing in winter often lays the foundation of future poor health. The Police-Aided Society for Providing Clothes for Poor Children performs good work in Dublin and deserves more support than it receives from the general public.

The diet of labourers is generally very poor and insufficient. The constant items are bread and tea. Puddings, pies, and tarts are practically unknown. There are no ovens to bake them in, nor, as a rule, any knowledge of how they should be made. Cooking is taught in very few of the primary schools for girls. Much good would result if it were possible to provide a meal for the very poor children, who must now by law go to school. An organisation has recently been established to provide a daily meal for poor children.

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Acknowledgements:

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