Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

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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 a letter written by J Phillips to the Home Secretary, Lord John Russell, 12 March 1839. Phillips was a magistrate in Newport, South Wales. Here Phillips is discussing his observations regarding Chartism in the local area.

It is within my own knowledge that a Chartist Society has existed in this town for some months. Some Chartists travel periodically into the neighbouring villages and mining districts to obtain signatures for the Chartist petition. These Chartist missionaries go to public houses and beer shops where meetings, small and large, have assembled. The missionaries tell these meetings of the grievances of the working classes. They tell them that half their earnings are taken from them in taxes and that these taxes are spent in supporting the ruling classes in idleness and luxury. The missionaries say that the employers are tyrants who acquire wealth by the labour of the working classes. They say that the great men around them possess property to which they are not entitled and that these evils are to be cured by the Chartists. The missionaries say that the people must sign the Chartist petition and that, if their demands are not peaceably granted, the Chartists will be justified in resorting to force. The missionaries tell the people that they need not fear bloodshed because the soldiers will not act – a letter is normally read out at the meetings to confirm this.

I cannot say to what extent these appeals may influence the conduct of the working classes in this neighbourhood. I am reluctant to believe that they will be provoked into actual insurrection, but it is certain that they appear discontented and that they look with loathing and dislike at their employers. I do not think that anything that has yet occurred need give rise to fears of immediate violence, but I would urge strongly on the government the necessity for being fully prepared for a rising. The appeal made by the Chartists to the ignorant and the wicked will, sooner or later, lead to acts of illegality and violence.

It seems now openly acknowledged that the application of physical force is the means by which the Chartists intend to act against the government. If such a proceeding be really adopted, it is obvious that it would consist of a widespread insurrection. In this neighbourhood, with an extremely large and very reckless population, we are wholly unprepared for such an event, having no troops of any description in any part of the county.

Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From the *Third Report of the Royal Commission for Inquiring into the Condition of the Poorer Classes in Ireland*, published 1836. The information for this government report was collected in the years 1833–36.

The cotton trade has been depressed economically from 1825 until the present time. This year an emigrant vessel sailed from Ireland whose passengers consisted entirely of cotton-spinners, calico-printers and other people connected with the cotton trade. However, Mr Andrew Mulholland has stated that, within the last three months, a decided improvement has taken place in the cotton trade in Belfast.

Much of the distress which might result from the fluctuation of trade is, in great measure, relieved by the introduction of steam shipping. The great ease which steam shipping enables travel to Scotland has also tended towards an improvement in the condition of our poor. Labourers are constantly travelling backwards and forwards to meet the seasonal demands for labour. About 95 to 110 members of the working classes travel every day to Glasgow to seek work for the summer months.

The factories in Belfast are a substantial source of comfort and employment to the poor. These factories cause much improvement in the condition of the labourer. In the unemployed season, in sickness, and in approaching old age, they are a resource on which a family can fall back. Many, who would have been obliged to depend on charity, are supported by the employment of their children.

Employment is provided to more than 4,000 people, most of whom are children, by the flax-mills and cotton-mills in the town and neighbourhood of Belfast. Mr Mulholland himself has between 700 and 800 employees at his large flax-mill and between 300 and 400 at another establishment of the same kind, which is not yet complete. In the two establishments, he has, at present, between 600 and 700 children. However, though the employment is so considerable, there are still many who cannot obtain work.

Mr Mulholland thinks he could get many more labourers than he has at present. Indeed, when it is known labourers are wanted, people will come 60 or 70 or 80 miles to be employed. It is most satisfactory to find, that at the same time as these establishments have added so much to the comfort of the people, they have not, as in other towns, deteriorated their morals. Mr Mulholland attributes this to the fact that he provides properly for his labourers.

Mr Mulholland added that he had imported French and Belgian flax, which is very superior to the Irish.

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Acknowledgements

Source 1 from: 'The Early Chartists', Dorothy Thomson, Macmillan 1971

Source 2 from: Selection of Reports and Papers of the House of Commons: Irish poor, Volume 48