

Examiner's General Advice on Unit 1

In AS Unit 1 students are expected to demonstrate several skills which are also **assessment objectives**. All questions will aim to test more than one of these objectives, and in an examination answer will be marked accordingly. There will, on any given examination paper, be a planned balance of the various skills across questions to ensure that all are covered. However, individual questions or part questions will focus on certain of the skills, not necessarily all of them at once. Consequently one of the ways of writing an effective answer is to learn to recognise the particular skill that is the focal point of a particular question. However, it is also important to remember that accurate knowledge and understanding are key elements in any AS answer.

The **assessment objectives** are:

A01 (a): Recall, selection and deployment of appropriate historical knowledge, communicated effectively.

A01 (b): Demonstrating historical understanding involving explanation, analysis and judgement, involving key concepts such as causation, consequence, change and continuity; and an understanding of the relationships between key features of the period studied.

A02 (b): Analysing and evaluating how the past has been interpreted and represented in different ways.

Unit 1 contains **three** two-part questions, not source-based, on the chosen option from European, World or British history. Candidates are required to answer **two** of the questions.

It is important to divide your time well. The first part of each question carries 12 marks; the second part carries 24 marks. Therefore you should probably aim to spend less time on the first parts, or you will risk running out of time on the second and longer parts.

There are several skills implicit in answering the questions well. One element is simple **recall**. You will need to **explain**, for example by giving the reasons for a particular event. This requires more than simply listing a series of reasons from memory – a high-level answer will require you to put these reasons in context and relate them to each other. The 24-mark question will require you to examine a particular historical issue. You must not only call up your knowledge of the topic, but also **use** that knowledge in such a way that you are able to **analyse** the issues and produce a **reasoned argument** using the knowledge you have.

AQA – AS GCE Change and Consolidation Unit 1 HIS1G	Britain 1815–1865	QUESTION 1 (01)
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Examiner’s Specific Advice

This question is testing your knowledge and ability to communicate it effectively. It is important that you do both. It is not enough just to describe events – that will earn very few marks. You need to explain the reasons why the Corn Laws were introduced and, if possible, make links between the reasons, showing perspective and understanding. If you do that well you should get to a high level. You should not write a full essay – two or three paragraphs should be sufficient.

Exemplar Question

1 (01) Explain why Lord Liverpool’s government introduced the Corn Law in 1815. **[12 marks]**

Plan

- The situation for farmers in 1815 and the thinking behind the Corn Law
- The need to prevent the country from becoming dependent on imports of food
- The political power of the landowners and how the Corn Law protected their interests
- Conclusion

Examiner’s Exemplar Answer 1

The Corn Law of 1815 was introduced by Lord Liverpool’s government at the end of the war against France. At this time the price of corn had dropped and farmers’ incomes were suffering. The Corn Law stopped the import of foreign corn unless the price of home-grown corn was above 80 shillings per quarter. The idea was that, by stopping the import of foreign corn, the prices British farmers received for their corn would be forced upwards and their incomes would be protected (1).

The Corn Law was very unpopular with working class people because it meant that the price of bread was very high and this caused distress for poor people (2).

(1) This is a legitimate reason for the introduction of the Corn Law but it is not very well developed.

(2) This second paragraph is not relevant to the question because it focuses on the **effects** of the Corn Law rather than its **causes**.

Examiner's Assessment

The first paragraph of the answer is focused on the question and identifies a clear reason why the Corn Law was introduced. It also contains some description of the Corn Law itself but there is very little development of the argument. The second paragraph is almost totally irrelevant to this question. The answer merits a Level 2 mark.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The Corn Law of 1815 was introduced by Lord Liverpool's government to protect British farmers from foreign competition at a time when farming was experiencing a severe depression (3). At the end of the long war against France the price of home-grown corn fell at the same time as trade between Britain and Europe was able to resume. Imports of foreign corn into Britain had the effect of pushing down prices even further, with the result that British farmers saw their incomes slump. The Corn Law of 1815 prevented the import of any foreign corn into Britain unless the price of home-grown corn was above 80 shillings per quarter. This protected British farmers against foreign competition and kept the price of corn artificially high (4).

Lord Liverpool's government believed that it was dangerous for the country to become dependent on imports of foreign corn, especially at a time when this country had just experienced a long war against France (5). During that war the French Emperor, Napoleon, had imposed a trade blockade against Britain which prevented supplies of wheat from Europe being imported into Britain. Bread, made from wheat, was the staple diet of the majority of the people and so the supply of bread was of crucial importance to them. Shortages in the supply of wheat drove the price up and caused distress to the poor, which in turn could lead to unrest. Liverpool's government believed that it was important to encourage British farmers to grow more wheat so that the country did not become dependent on foreign supplies. In other words, Liverpool was trying to protect Britain's security (6).

In introducing the Corn Law the government was protecting the farmers but hurting the consumers of bread, since the effect was to keep bread prices high. Lord Liverpool, most of his cabinet and the majority of Members of Parliament were landowners. One of the

(3) The answer starts with a clear statement which is directly focused on the question.

(4) The first factor – protecting farmers from foreign competition – is well developed through the first paragraph.

(5) The second paragraph introduces another factor which is closely related to, but not the same as, the first. A link is made with the first paragraph and the argument is being extended.

(6) The second factor is explained and developed through the rest of this paragraph.

main sources of income for landowners was from rents paid by farmers. If farmers were suffering from lower prices they were less able to pay their rents and the incomes of landowners would be affected as well. The introduction of the Corn Law was regarded by many at the time as a clear example of the landowning aristocracy using their political power to protect their own interests at the expense of the majority of the people (7).

The Corn Law was introduced to protect the farmers from foreign competition and to prevent the country from becoming dangerously dependent on imports of food. However, this law was only possible because parliament and the government were dominated by landowners who stood to gain the most from protection and higher prices (8).

Examiner's Assessment

This is a thorough and well-developed answer which shows good knowledge and understanding of the subject. Three clear and distinct factors are identified and each of these factors is then explained and developed. Clear links are made between the factors, particularly by showing that the key consideration for Liverpool's government was protection – of the farmers, of the country's food supplies and of the interests of the landowners. There is some judgement shown in the way that the factors are linked together. The answer merits a Level 4 mark.

(7) The third paragraph introduces another reason for the introduction of the Corn Law and develops that argument. The use of the word 'protection' in each factor maintains a link between them.

(8) There is a short but effective conclusion which summarises the three main factors.

Mark Scheme

L1:

The answer is descriptive and only loosely linked to the question, or there is comment but with little support. It is likely to be assertive and generalised.

[1–2 marks]

L2:

There will be some relevant knowledge and understanding, but the answer will be mainly descriptive about the Corn Law, with few links to the issue of why it was introduced in 1815; or explanations will show limited range and/or depth.

[3–6 marks]

L3:

Answers will show good understanding, with relevant explanations (at least two developed ones) of why the Corn Law was introduced, using appropriate knowledge, although the answer may not cover all aspects.

[7–9 marks]

L4:

The answer will be well focused on the issue of why the Corn Law was introduced, with a range of explanations, backed up with precise evidence and showing a good awareness of links/connections.

[10–12 marks]

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Change and
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Unit 1 HIS1G**

Britain 1815–1865

**QUESTION 1
(02)**

Examiner’s Specific Advice

This question is testing several skills and also your knowledge of the topic. Because the question is on an important topic, you are expected to know the main details; in this case, the changes in Lord Liverpool’s government after 1822. You are also being required to provide a historical explanation and make a substantiated judgement.

As always with an essay-type question, relevance is the key – your answer can be reasonably concise as long as you address the precise question. Relevance is more important than elegance of style.

The key thing is not to narrate and describe, but to keep the precise question in mind: How far did Lord Liverpool’s government change to a more liberal form of Toryism in the years 1822 to 1827? You need to show knowledge and understanding of the changes made to Lord Liverpool’s cabinet in 1822 and the reforms introduced by these new ministers. You need also to show that you have some understanding of what the Tory Party stood for and whether there was a significant change to a more ‘liberal’ approach after 1822. There needs to be some reference, albeit brief, to the policies pursued by Liverpool’s government before 1822 so that you can make some comparisons.

Most importantly, whatever the approach, do make a judgement about ‘how far’ the government of Lord Liverpool from 1822 to 1827 was more ‘liberal’ than the preceding Tory government and back it up with evidence, either with a concluding paragraph or throughout the essay.

It is advisable for an essay-type answer of this sort to have a plan, since you will almost certainly be writing several paragraphs.

Exemplar Question

1 (02) How far did Lord Liverpool’s government change to a more liberal form of Toryism in its domestic policies in the years 1822 to 1827?

[24 marks]

Plan

- Introduction – changes in Liverpool’s cabinet in 1822
- Tory philosophy – traditional and ‘liberal’
- Reforms introduced by Peel, Huskisson and Robinson
- Limitations to reform
- Conclusion

Examiner’s Exemplar Answer 1

In 1822 Lord Liverpool made several important changes to his cabinet. Sir Robert Peel replaced the very reactionary Lord Sidmouth at the Home Office, William Huskisson became President of the Board of Trade, Robinson became Chancellor of the Exchequer and Canning replaced Castlereagh as Foreign Secretary. With these new men in the cabinet, Liverpool’s government began to introduce a number of liberal reforms (1).

At the Home Office Peel introduced a number of reforms which showed a more liberal approach to crime and punishment than that followed by Sidmouth (2). Firstly, he reduced the number of offences which carried the death penalty. Secondly, he introduced the Gaols Act in 1823 which reformed the prisons. Previously prisons had been dirty, unhealthy places where prisoners of all ages were thrown together so that older criminals could teach their skills to young offenders. Peel’s reforms introduced regular inspections of prisons and separated prisoners into different categories to keep them apart. Strict discipline was enforced in the new prison system (3). Finally, Peel introduced the Metropolitan Police Force in London in 1829, the first professional police force in the country (4).

Huskisson believed in free trade and introduced reforms to reduce tariffs. Reciprocity Treaties with foreign powers led to mutual reductions in tariffs on trade. The relaxation of the Navigation Acts allowed British colonies more freedom to trade with foreign countries and allowed more foreign ships to trade in British ports. At the same time, Robinson reduced trade duties on a wide range of imports to help consumers and manufacturers with lower prices, and he either reduced or abolished a number of indirect taxes. The work of these two men led to an increase in Britain’s trade in the 1820s and resulted in greater prosperity (5).

(1) This is a rather descriptive introduction which does little more than list the changes made to Liverpool’s government. There is a reference to ‘liberal’ reforms but the term is not explained or developed.

(2) Again the term ‘liberal’ is used without explanation.

(3) This is a list of reforms introduced by Peel. It is very descriptive in style.

(4) Here the candidate is ignoring the dates in the question and referring to something which happened later, in 1829.

(5) This paragraph also has a descriptive approach, doing little more than list a series of reforms.

The reforms introduced by Peel, Huskisson and Robinson did show a more liberal approach to domestic policy than that followed by the ministers who had been in power before 1822 (6).

Examiner's Assessment

This answer is quite detailed, accurate and mostly relevant. It is, however, very descriptive in style and makes only limited references to the key words in the question. There is just enough focus on the question for a low Level 3 mark.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

Lord Liverpool was Tory Prime Minister from 1812 until 1827. Historians have traditionally divided this time into two periods: a reactionary phase from 1812 to 1822, when his government introduced repressive measures such as the Six Acts of 1819, and a more 'liberal' phase from 1822 to 1827 when a new group of ministers introduced a series of reforms. This interpretation is no longer supported by the majority of historians (7).

The Tory Party had traditionally been associated with staunch support for institutions such as the monarchy and the Church of England and with upholding the power and privileges of the landed interest. Before 1822, Liverpool's government was faced with widespread unrest and demands for reform from radical groups. Fearing revolution, Liverpool was not prepared to make concessions to middle and working class reformers. Instead, repressive measures were introduced to prevent radical groups from organising demonstrations and publishing their views in newspapers and pamphlets. At the same time, Liverpool protected the landowners by introducing the Corn Law of 1815, which limited the import of foreign wheat, but harmed the interests of the middle and working classes because the Corn Law caused bread prices to rise (8). Even during this 'reactionary' phase of Liverpool's government, however, there were some reforms. For example, there was a Factory Act in 1819 which attempted to protect the children employed in cotton factories (9).

In 1822 Lord Liverpool made changes to his cabinet. Sir Robert Peel replaced Lord Sidmouth at the Home Office, Huskisson became President of

(6) The conclusion is just a brief summary of what has been said before. There is no judgement on the question of 'how far' Liverpool's government was more 'liberal' than that which preceded it.

(7) The introduction sets out the issues to be considered in the question. There is some reference to differing historical interpretations but this would be better if specific historians had been mentioned.

(8) This paragraph sets out the context of the question and enables a comparison to be made between the two phases of the Tory government. The basic beliefs of Toryism are explained.

(9) This last sentence introduces an element of balance into the argument.

the Board of Trade, Robinson was made Chancellor of the Exchequer. A 'liberal' in the early 19th century was someone who favoured reform and who supported free trade. Each of these new ministers was prepared to introduce reforms and supported freer trade. Peel, as Home Secretary, was associated with a number of important reforms to the criminal justice system. He drastically reduced the number of offences which carried the death penalty and introduced reforms to the prison system so that prisons became cleaner, healthier and more disciplined places. Each county and each large town were required to establish local prisons and they were to be inspected regularly by the local magistrates. Peel's changes did not satisfy all of the demands from prison reformers but they did make a start in removing some of the worst abuses of the old prison system (10).

Huskisson and Robinson made a number of reforms in the direction of freer trade. Import duties on a range of goods were either reduced or abolished. A series of Reciprocity Treaties with other countries led to mutual reductions of tariffs and stimulated trade. Huskisson relaxed the Navigation Laws to allow foreign ships to trade in British ports and the colonies to trade direct with foreign countries. These changes stimulated competition, increased trade and reduced prices of imported goods to consumers, all of which reflected a more liberal approach to economic policy (11).

In terms of the reforms and the moves towards free trade, therefore, Liverpool's government in the years 1822 to 1827 does merit the description 'liberal Toryism'. This is not, however, the full picture. It is important to note that all of the ministers associated with 'liberal' Toryism had in fact been members of the government before 1822. Many of the reforms introduced after 1822 had in fact been under consideration by the government in the so-called 'reactionary' phase. On the issue of free trade, Liverpool himself had long been in favour of reducing tariffs, although he did feel that the landowners and farmers deserved special protection because of the economic importance of agriculture. As far as reform of the parliamentary system was concerned, however, Liverpool and his ministers were just as opposed to any concessions after 1822 as they had been before. Liverpool was also determined throughout his term as Prime Minister to resist 'liberal' demands to allow Catholics and non-conformists greater political

(10) This paragraph is somewhat descriptive of Peel's reforms but there is also an attempt to define the term 'liberal' and to assess the effectiveness of Peel's reforms.

(11) This paragraph is also rather descriptive but it does link the changes to the key word (liberal) in the question.

(12) This paragraph provides the overall balance in the answer by offering a range of points which challenge the basic premise of a change in 1822.

<p><u>rights</u> (12).</p> <p><u>The description of Lord Liverpool’s government between 1822 and 1827 as a more ‘liberal’ form of Toryism is, therefore, misleading. There were more reforms after 1822 than before and there were some significant moves in the direction of free trade. On the other hand, the Tory government before 1822 was not totally blind to the need for reform and there were also limits to the amount of reform which Liverpool and his colleagues would tolerate after 1822. There was as much continuity as change over the whole period</u> (13).</p> <p>Examiner’s Assessment</p> <p>This is a thorough, detailed and balanced answer to the question. Although there are some passages which contain description, the question is addressed in every paragraph and the argument is balanced by a counter-argument. Key terms are defined and developed with examples. There is some understanding of differing interpretations. In the conclusion the candidate arrives at an overall judgement in response to the question. The answer, therefore, merits a top Level 4 mark.</p>	<p>(13) The conclusion sums up the main points of the argument and arrives at an overall judgement.</p>
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<p>Mark Scheme</p>	
<p>L1:</p>	<p>The answer is descriptive, only loosely linked to the question, or only answering part of it, or it is an explicit answer with little or no effective support. The answer is likely to be generalised and possibly assertive rather than argued.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1–6 marks]</p>
<p>L2:</p>	<p>The answer shows some understanding of the changes in Lord Liverpool’s government in the years after 1822. It may be predominantly descriptive about this development, with some links to the question, or it may have explicit links with relevant but limited support.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[7–11 marks]</p>
<p>L3:</p>	<p>The answer shows developed understanding of the changes in Liverpool’s government after 1822. There will be some assessment, supported by relevant and well-selected knowledge, although there will probably be a lack of weight of detail and/or balance. There will be some understanding of interpretations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[12–16 marks]</p>
<p>L4:</p>	<p>There is explicit understanding of the changes in Lord Liverpool’s government. A balanced argument will be supported by good use of evidence and understanding of interpretations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[17–21 marks]</p>

L5:

Answers will be well focused and closely argued. The arguments about how far Liverpool's government changed will be supported by precisely chosen evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating a good understanding of interpretations and debate.

[22–24 marks]

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Britain 1815–1865

**QUESTION 02
(03)**

Examiner's Specific Advice

This question requires a range of skills and a focus on explanation rather than description. Be careful not to take too long over this 12-mark question – it is important to be concise and to judge the length of your answer to the marks allocated. In addition to explaining clearly a range of reasons, try to make links and judgements about the relative importance of the reasons given, or how they were interrelated.

Exemplar Question

2 (03) Explain why the Anti-Corn Law League campaigned for the repeal of the Corn Laws in the years 1839 to 1846.

[12 marks]

Plan

- Aim of Anti-Corn Law League and link to wider campaign for free trade
- Economic case for repeal of Corn Laws
- Moral case for repeal
- Political objectives of ACLL

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

The Anti-Corn Law League was founded in 1839 to campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws. The two leading figures in the League were Richard Cobden, a journalist, and John Bright, a cotton manufacturer (1). These men believed passionately in free trade and they saw the Corn Laws, which gave protection to British farmers against the import of foreign grain, as a symbol of the power of the landowners to look after their own interests (2). The League was set up to put pressure on the government by

(1) This is a descriptive opening which does not attempt to address the question.

(2) There is an implicit link to the question here, since the material on free trade is relevant to understanding why the ACLL was founded, but the link is not made explicit.

organising meetings, publishing newspapers and pamphlets and trying to get League supporters elected to Parliament. It was one of the first examples of a pressure group in British politics (3).

Examiner's Assessment

This is a short answer which contains some relevant information but the candidate does not maintain a focus on the question throughout. The answer offers two factors in explanation of why the ACLL was founded but the first of these is only linked to the question in an implicit way. Neither of the factors is developed. The answer merits a mid-Level 2 mark.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The Anti-Corn Law League was set up in 1839 to campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws (4). The members of the ACLL were passionate supporters of free trade because the majority of them were middle class manufacturers and merchants. They believed that free trade would encourage trade between Britain and other countries to grow and this would help their businesses. They argued that the Corn Laws, which limited the import of foreign grain into Britain, kept bread prices artificially high and so caused hardship to consumers. Consumers who relied on bread for their staple diet had less money to spend on the goods made in the factories so demand for manufactured goods was reduced. Workers employed in the factories demanded higher wages because of the higher bread prices. All of these economic factors convinced many manufacturers, especially in cities like Manchester and Leeds, that the Corn Laws should be repealed for the benefit of the majority of the people (5).

For many of the League's supporters, free trade was a moral issue as well as an economic necessity (6). They believed that because the Corn Laws prevented foreign producers from exporting grain to Britain, British exports of manufactured goods to foreign countries were also restricted since foreigners had less money to spend on British goods. Trade between nations, they believed, made them inter-dependent and less likely to make war on one another. Peace and prosperity, they believed, went hand in hand.

(3) The last two sentences of the answer are more directly focused on the reasons why the ACLL was founded, but the point is not well developed.

(4) This is a direct opening to the question.

(5) The first factor is well developed and exemplified.

(6) A new factor is introduced here and a link is made to the previous factor. The candidate is organising the answer in a controlled way and the second factor is then well developed.

<p>For the supporters of the ACLL, the repeal of the Corn Laws was as much a political issue as it was economic (7). The middle classes had been given the right to vote in the Great Reform Act of 1832 and wanted to use their new political power to push for further reforms. Parliament, however, was still dominated by the landowning aristocracy. In the eyes of the leaders of the League, such as Richard Cobden and John Bright, the aristocracy were using their political power to protect their own interests, since the Corn Laws protected landowners and farmers but harmed everybody else. The Corn Laws, therefore, were a symbol of the continuing aristocratic domination of British politics and the League saw repeal as a key battleground in the struggle for middle class political influence.</p> <p>There were economic, moral and political reasons why the Anti-Corn Law League was established in 1839. By the late 1830s there was growing support among manufacturers and traders for free trade and the Corn Laws were seen as an obstacle to this. Above all, the Corn Laws were a symbol of the continuing aristocratic domination of British politics, a situation which middle class radicals such as Cobden and Bright were determined to challenge (8).</p> <p>Examiner’s Assessment</p> <p>This answer contains three solid factors which are all fully explained and well developed. Links are made between the factors and the answer concludes with a judgement about their relative importance. It merits a mark at the top of Level 4.</p>	<p>(7) Once again a new factor is introduced and a link is made to previously mentioned factors. This third factor is developed with relevant, well-selected knowledge.</p> <p>(8) The conclusion not only summarises the main points made in the body of the answer but also offers a judgement on the relative importance of the factors listed.</p>
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<p>Mark Scheme</p>	
<p>L1:</p>	<p>The answer is descriptive and only loosely linked to the question, or there is comment but with little support. It is likely to be assertive and generalised.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1–2 marks]</p>
<p>L2:</p>	<p>There will be some relevant knowledge and understanding, but the answer will be mainly descriptive about the ACLL, with few links to the issue of why it was founded; or explanations will show limited range and/or depth.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[3–6 marks]</p>
<p>L3:</p>	<p>Answers will show good understanding, with relevant explanations (at least two developed ones) of why the ACLL was founded, using appropriate knowledge, although the answer may not cover all aspects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[7–9 marks]</p>

L4:

The answer will be well focused on the issue of why the ACLL was founded, with a range of explanations, backed up with precise evidence and probably showing a good awareness of links/connections.

[10–12 marks]

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Britain 1815–1865

**QUESTION 2
(04)**

Examiner’s Specific Advice

This question is testing several skills and also your knowledge of the topic. Because the question is about a major theme, you are expected to know the main details, in this case the circumstances surrounding Parliament’s decision to repeal the Corn Laws. You are also being required to provide a historical explanation and make a substantiated judgement.

As always with an essay-type question, relevance is the key – your answer can be reasonably concise as long as you address the precise question. Relevance is more important than elegance of style. A short, well-focused introduction will help to give direction to your answer and you will need to round off with a conclusion which summarises your main line of argument and offers a judgement in relation to the question.

The key thing is not to narrate and describe, but to keep the precise question in mind. Clearly your answer should evaluate the extent to which the ACLL’s campaign was responsible for the eventual repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846. However, in assessing ‘How important?’ you will need to evaluate any other factors which contributed to the repeal before reaching a final judgement.

Most importantly, whatever the approach, *do* make a judgement and back it up with evidence, either with a concluding paragraph, or throughout the essay.

For an essay-type answer of this sort you should have a plan, since you will probably be writing several paragraphs.

Exemplar Question

2 (04) How important was the campaign of the Anti-Corn Law League in persuading Parliament to repeal the Corn Laws in 1846?

[24 marks]

Plan

- Introduction – outline of historical debate
- The ACLL's campaign and its effectiveness
- Other factors leading to repeal – Peel and the Irish famine
- Conclusion

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

The Anti-Corn Law League was founded in 1839 in order to organise a campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws. Most of the support for the ACLL came from middle class manufacturers and merchants, especially in the north of England. The ACLL had two very effective leaders in Richard Cobden and John Bright (1).

The Anti-Corn Law League was a pressure group which campaigned on a single issue. With the money supplied by its middle class supporters the League mounted a very effective campaign. 'Missionaries' were sent out by the League to carry its free trade message to towns and cities around the country. Meetings and rallies were organised, pamphlets and journals were published and petitions were sent to Parliament. In the General Election of 1841 the League put up its own candidates and captured three seats, including Stockport which was won by Richard Cobden. The League could now take its campaign directly into the House of Commons. The League continued to contest by-elections in the years 1841 to 1846 and persuaded its supporters to register as voters. Although there were a number of setbacks to this strategy, the League succeeded in winning more Parliamentary seats in 1845 and 1846 (2).

Sir Robert Peel, who was Prime Minister between 1841 and 1846, was a supporter of free trade. In his budgets during these years the duties on a wide range of imports and exports were either reduced or abolished completely. By 1845, corn was the only major commodity which still had protection against competition from imports. Peel, however, had promised at the 1841 election that he would keep the Corn Laws, since the landowners and farmers, who were important backers of Peel's Tory Party, demanded that they should still have this protection. It is possible that Peel had decided to wait until the next general election before he announced that he had changed his mind about the Corn Laws and wanted to repeal them. A threat of famine in Ireland, however, forced Peel's hand. When the Irish potato crop failed in 1845, and again in 1846, Peel decided that imports of cheap foreign corn would be the only way to prevent starvation for millions of Irishmen. He, therefore, decided to push a Repeal of the Corn Laws through Parliament with the support of the Whigs and ACLL MPs. The

(1) This is a rather descriptive opening to the answer.

(2) There is a lot of detail here about the strategy of the League and how effective this was but there is no attempt to address the question of how important this campaign was in the context of Corn Law repeal.

(3) The candidate introduces other factors to the answer – the role of Sir Robert Peel and the importance of the Irish famine in his decision to repeal the Corn Laws. This is not linked in any way to the importance of the League.

majority of his own Tory party refused to support Peel in his Repeal of the Corn Laws (3).

The Corn Laws were repealed in 1846 because Peel had become convinced that they could no longer be justified. The Anti-Corn Law League had mounted a very effective campaign for repeal but the final decision was made by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel (4).

Examiner's Assessment

This is a mainly descriptive response to the question. The actions of the ACLL are described but the importance of its campaign, in the context of repeal, is never properly evaluated. Similarly, the section on Peel is mostly descriptive although there is some attempt to explain Peel's change of mind. The candidate does not, however, make any link between the campaign of the ACLL and Peel's decision to repeal the Corn Laws. The conclusion is more focused on the question but this line of argument is not developed through the main body of the answer. There is just enough explicit focus on the question for Level 3 but only at the bottom of the level.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The Anti-Corn Law League was one of the first, and one of the most effective, pressure groups in British political history. Founded in 1839, with strong support from the manufacturers and merchants in the industrial areas of the north and midlands, the League quickly established itself as a force to be reckoned with. The League had a single aim, the repeal of the Corn Laws. This was achieved in 1846 when Parliament approved Sir Robert Peel's proposal for repeal. Despite the effectiveness of its campaign, however, the influence of the League over the decision to repeal the Corn Laws has been a matter for debate between historians (5).

There is no doubt that the League did organise a very effective campaign. Supporters of the League were in favour of free trade in order to reduce the cost of imported food and raw materials, thereby cutting costs for manufacturers. They also believed that if Britain opened its markets to imports from other countries, those countries would follow suit and allow British goods to enter their markets free of duty. Governments since the 1820s had been gradually moving towards free trade policies but the Corn Laws, which restricted the import of foreign grown corn into Britain, were regarded by landowners and farmers as an essential protection for a vital British industry. For manufacturers and

(4) The conclusion does contain a judgement about the importance of Peel and, by implication, the lack of importance of the League. This conclusion is not, however, developed throughout the answer.

(5) This is a strong, focused introduction which gives clear direction to the rest of the answer.

landowners alike, therefore, the Corn Laws were symbolic. Landowners used their enormous political influence to ensure the Corn Laws were maintained; manufacturers and merchants resented this privileged position of landowners and saw the Corn Laws as a symbol of their power. Support for the League, therefore, came mainly from the middle classes and, to a lesser extent, from the working classes who were attracted by the prospects of cheaper food (6).

In the late 1830s the League began its campaign to win support for repeal of the Corn Laws. By sending 'missionaries' on speaking tours around the industrial towns, issuing leaflets and pamphlets and publishing journals, the League carried its campaign to an ever-widening audience. The League also contested elections and succeeded in getting its leading figures elected to Parliament. In the General Election of 1841, the League captured four seats, including Stockport which was represented by Richard Cobden; John Bright was elected to Parliament for Durham in a by-election in 1843. With its own MPs the League was able to take its campaign directly into the House of Commons. Using these methods the League was able to keep the issue of Corn Law repeal in the public eye. The success of the League in mobilising public opinion can be gauged from the fact that landowners and farmers realised that they could not rely on their political influence alone to maintain the Corn Laws. In 1843 the supporters of the Corn Laws formed their own Central Agricultural Protection Society to mobilise public opinion in support of their own cause (7).

The strategy of the League had achieved impressive results but it was difficult to sustain its initial success. As the League contested more and more elections it came up against the entrenched vested interests of the traditional wielders of influence in the boroughs. During 1844 and 1845 the League's candidates in by-elections suffered a string of defeats. Indeed, the influence of the League was starting to decline at precisely the moment when Corn Law repeal became the most important political issue of the day. The reason, therefore, that the Corn Laws were repealed in 1846 had less to do with pressure from the Anti-Corn Law League than with other factors. Indeed, Evans has gone as far as to say that 'It is at least arguable that the Corn Laws would have been repealed even had the Anti-Corn Law League not existed' (8).

The Corn Laws were repealed because the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, realised that they could no longer be defended. Peel had taken major steps towards removing restrictions on trade in raw materials and manufactured goods during the years 1841 to 1845. On the issue of the Corn Laws, however, Peel's freedom to act was severely

(6) This is a very detailed analysis of the reasons why the Corn Laws became such a symbolic political issue in the 1830s and 1840s. It helps to explain the context of the League's campaign and the reasons why it was supported.

(7) This paragraph develops and exemplifies the point about the effectiveness of the League's campaign. It is very detailed but it maintains an analytical approach.

(8) This paragraph offers a counter-argument to the view that the League's campaign was highly influential. It uses a quote from a leading historian in this field to good effect and contains a clear judgement.

limited by the fact that his own party represented the interests of the landowners. Indeed, Peel had promised in the 1841 General Election that he would not repeal the Corn Laws. By 1845 it seems likely that he had changed his mind on the issue, but not because of the campaign by the ACLL. Peel realised that keeping the Corn Laws, when all other trade barriers were being removed, exposed the landowners to the charge that they were using their political power to defend their own selfish interests. It also seems likely that Peel had decided to wait until the next General Election before announcing his change of mind because he was aware that he would be accused of betrayal and that the issue would split his own party. He decided to act in 1846, however, because of the onset of the Irish famine, caused by the failure of the potato crop. With millions in Ireland facing starvation Peel realised that he could no longer defend the Corn Laws which prevented the import of cheap foreign corn, something which might relieve the situation in Ireland (9).

The repeal of the Corn Laws, therefore, had very little to do with pressure from the anti-Corn Law League. Although they organised a very effective campaign, this had passed its peak by 1846. The crucial decision to repeal the Corn Laws was taken by Sir Robert Peel and it was the events in Ireland which led him to bring forward the repeal to 1846 (10).

Examiner's Assessment

This is a detailed and explicitly focused answer to the question. The role of the League is dealt with first and its importance in bringing about the repeal of the Corn Laws is analysed. The answer is balanced, both through its argument that the League's campaign was beginning to flounder at the point when repeal was carried and through the consideration given to other factors. The candidate shows an awareness of the historical debate on the issue and offers a clear judgement, not just in the conclusion but throughout the answer. It has the qualities of a Level 5 answer and merits a mark at the top of the band.

(9) This paragraph develops and extends the counter-argument and offers a clear judgement about the role of Sir Robert Peel.

(10) The conclusion clearly flows from the main body of the answer. The relative importance of the League and of Peel are addressed and the essay ends with a clear judgement.

Mark Scheme

L1:

The answer is descriptive, only loosely linked to the question, or only answering part of it, or it is an explicit answer with little or no effective support. The answer is likely to be generalised and possibly assertive rather than argued.

[1–6 marks]

L2:
The answer shows some understanding of the effectiveness of the ACLL's campaign. It may be predominantly descriptive, with some links to the question, or it may have explicit links with relevant but limited support. [7–11 marks]
L3:
The answer shows sound understanding of the role of the ACLL in persuading Parliament to repeal the Corn Laws. There will be some assessment, supported by relevant and well-selected knowledge, although there will probably be a lack of weight of detail and/or balance. There will be some understanding of interpretations. [12–16 marks]
L4:
There is explicit understanding of the importance of the ACLL's campaign. A balanced argument, which considers a range of other factors, will be supported by good use of evidence and understanding of interpretations. [17–21 marks]
L5:
Answers will be well focused and closely argued. The arguments about how successfully the ACLL campaigned and its impact on Parliament will be supported by precisely chosen evidence, leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement and incorporating a well-developed understanding of interpretations and debate. [22–24 marks]

Chronology: Key Events in *Britain 1815–1865*

- 1815** End of Napoleonic Wars after French defeat at battle of Waterloo.
Congress of Vienna fixes European boundaries.
Great Britain joins Russia, Austria and Prussia in Quadruple Alliance to uphold Vienna Settlement.
Government of Lord Liverpool introduces Corn Law.
- 1816** Trade depression and unemployment lead to distress and calls for reform of Parliament.
Riot at Spa Fields in London.
- 1817** March of the Blanketeers to demand reform of Parliament.
Pentrich Rising in Derbyshire.
Government suspends habeas corpus and introduces Seditious Meetings Act.
- 1819** 'Peterloo' massacre in Manchester.
Government introduces 'Six Acts'.
- 1820** Death of George III and accession of George IV.
Cato Street Conspiracy to murder members of cabinet.
Castlereagh issues State Paper setting out British policy of non-intervention in internal affairs of other states.
- 1821** Start of Greek revolt to win independence from Turkish Empire.

- 1822** Changes in Liverpool's government: Canning replaces Castlereagh as Foreign Secretary; Peel replaces Sidmouth as Home Secretary; Huskisson becomes President of Board of Trade; Robinson becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. Congress of Verona.
- 1823** Irish Catholic Association founded by O'Connell to campaign for Catholic Emancipation.
Huskisson and Robinson begin to reduce duties on imports.
- 1824** Repeal of Combination Acts legalises trade unions.
- 1825** Criminal Law Amendment Act outlaws intimidation during strikes.
Stockton to Darlington Railway opened.
- 1826** Canning sends British forces to Lisbon to support Portuguese regent against Franco-Spanish interference.
- 1827** Liverpool resigns after a stroke and is replaced as Prime Minister by Canning. Canning dies (August) and is replaced by Robinson (aka Lord Goderich).
Peel reforms the penal code to reduce the number of capital offences.
- 1828** Goderich resigns as Prime Minister and is replaced by Duke of Wellington.
Repeal of Test and Corporation Acts (giving religious liberty to non-conformists).
O'Connell wins County Clare by-election but is not allowed to take his seat in Parliament because he is a Catholic.
Corn Law revised by introduction of a sliding scale of import duties.
Treaty of London (Great Britain, France and Russia) commits powers to mediation in Greek War of Independence and demands a ceasefire by both sides; leads to destruction of Turkish/Egyptian fleet at Battle of Navarino.
- 1829** Roman Catholic emancipation granted.
Peel establishes Metropolitan Police Force.
- 1830** Death of George IV; succeeded by William IV.
General Election shows public sympathy for parliamentary reform.
Wellington resigns and is replaced by Whig ministry led by Grey.
Captain Swing riots by agricultural labourers in south of England.
Opening of Liverpool-to-Manchester railway.
Revolution in France overthrows Bourbon monarchy and puts Louis Philippe on the throne.
Belgian revolt for independence from Netherlands.
- 1831** Lord John Russell introduces first Reform bill; after defeat in Commons Grey calls General Election and secures pro-reform majority.
Second Reform bill rejected in House of Lords.
Pro-reform riots in Bristol and Nottingham.
Treaty of London (Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia) accepts Belgian independence.
- 1832** Grey resigns after Lords attempt to amend third Reform Bill.
Wellington tries and fails to form government.
Grey returns to office, Reform Bill passed.

- 1833** Abolition of slavery in British Empire.
Factory Act.
First grant of State aid to church schools.
- 1834** Grey replaced by Melbourne as Prime Minister.
Poor Law Amendment Act passed.
Melbourne resigns and Peel forms minority government.
Grand National Consolidated Trades Union founded.
'Tolpuddle Martyrs' transported to Australia for taking an illegal oath to join a union.
- 1835** Peel resigns and Melbourne returns as Prime Minister.
Municipal Corporations Act reforms local government in towns.
- 1836** Tithe Commutation Act reforms payment of tithes to Church of England.
- 1837** Civil registration of births, deaths and marriages introduced.
Death of William IV and accession of Queen Victoria.
Start of a serious trade depression.
- 1838** People's Charter published, marks start of Chartist movement.
- 1839** Chartist National Convention held and Chartist petition presented to Parliament (rejected).
Newport Rising by disappointed Chartists.
Start of Opium War with China.
Anti-Corn Law League founded.
- 1840** Penny Post introduced.
- 1841** Conservative victory in General Election; Peel becomes Prime Minister.
Straits Convention between major powers closes Dardanelles to foreign warships during peacetime.
- 1842** Peel's budget reduces many import duties.
Second Chartist petition rejected, leading to disturbances in many areas.
Coal Mines Act prevents women and children from working in mines.
End of Opium War; Britain gains Hong Kong and access to Chinese markets.
- 1844** Bank Charter Act regulates issuing of paper currency by banks.
Factory Act limits working hours for women and children in textile factories.
- 1845** Budget abolishes all export duties and reduces import duties.
Start of Irish potato famine.
- 1846** Repeal of Corn Laws by Peel splits Tory Party.
Russell (Whig) becomes Prime Minister.
- 1848** Third Chartist petition rejected by Parliament.
Public Health Act establishes General Board of Health.
- 1849** Navigation Acts repealed.

- 1850** Don Pacifico incident; Palmerston (Foreign Secretary) proclaims right to defend interests of British citizens in other countries.
- 1851** Great Exhibition celebrates Britain's status as 'workshop of the world'.
- 1852** Russell resigns (Feb) and is replaced by minority Tory government (Lord Derby). Derby government defeated (Dec) and replaced by Whig-Peelite coalition led by Lord Aberdeen.
- 1853** Gladstone (Chancellor of the Exchequer) continues Peel's free trade policy in Budget.
- 1854** Britain and France declare war on Russia (Crimean War).
- 1855** Aberdeen resigns and is replaced by Lord Palmerston as Prime Minister.
- 1856** Treaty of Paris ends Crimean War. Second Anglo-Chinese War.
- 1857** Outbreak of Indian Mutiny.
- 1858** Palmerston resigns and is replaced by minority Tory government under Lord Derby. Indian Mutiny put down but responsibility for India passes from East India Company to British government.
- 1859** Derby forced to resign and Palmerston becomes Prime Minister (Whig-Peelite).
- 1860** Gladstone's budget completes process of freeing trade.
- 1861** Start of American Civil War; Britain remains neutral.
- 1865** Palmerston dies and is replaced by Lord John Russell (Whig-Peelite).

Additional Sample Questions

- (a) Explain why there was widespread discontent in the years 1815 to 1820. [12 marks]
- (b) Explain why the Duke of Wellington fell from power in 1830. [12 marks]
- (c) Explain why Lord Castlereagh was a strong supporter of the Congress System in the years 1815 to 1822. [12 marks]
- (d) How successfully did Lord Liverpool's government deal with popular unrest in the years 1815 to 1820? [24 marks]
- (e) How important were the divisions within the Chartist movement in its failure to achieve the Six Points in the years 1838 to 1848? [24 marks]
- (f) How far did Canning follow a different foreign policy from that pursued by Castlereagh? [24 marks]

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