

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 HIS1L	Britain 1906–1951	QUESTION 1 (01)
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Examiner’s Specific Advice

This question tests several skills and also your knowledge of the topic; in this case the instability of politics in the early 1930s and why there was, for a time, a significant rise in support for Mosley and the BUF. The question requires a focused explanation of a range of reasons why Mosley made such an impact.

The key thing is not to narrate and describe, but to *use* your knowledge purposefully in order to explain what happened and why. You should also think about the length of your answer – a shorter, more coherent and controlled answer is *always* preferable to a longer, more detailed answer that is unfinished or lacking in clarity and accuracy. The amount of detail you include should take into account the number of marks available. You need to produce a concise answer to this 12-mark question in order to ensure you have adequate time to deal with the longer, essay-type question that follows.

Exemplar Question

1 (01) Explain why there was a surge in support for the BUF (British Union of Fascists) between 1932 and 1934. **[12 marks]**

Plan

- Identify the political context of 1932–34 – why extremist politics had an opportunity
- The strengths of Oswald Mosley as a leader
- Why many people were attracted to support the BUF
- Conclusion – any links, or prioritisation?

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

Oswald Mosley was a brilliant speaker and charismatic leader. He had been in the Labour government until 1940 when he resigned in protest against Ramsay MacDonald. First he formed the New Party, then he formed the BUF in 1932 (1).

Mosley was very anti-Jewish and anti-Communist. He copied a lot of policies from Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy, such as dressing his supporters in black shirts and giving a Fascist salute. His rallies gained a lot of attention in the press and there was often a lot of violence at them (2).

Mosley got a lot of financial support from Lord Rothermere, the owner of the *Daily Mail*. This helped to gain supporters. The membership of the BUF went up to 50 000 but in 1934 there was a big riot at a BUF rally at Olympia and Lord Rothermere stopped supporting Mosley. After that the BUF declined (3).

Examiner's Assessment

The answer shows a sound grasp of the events relating to the rise of the BUF and of Mosley's role as leader. However, there is too much literal description and not sufficiently direct explanation apart from the role of Rothermere's financial backing. Overall, the answer merited a mark at the borderline between Level 2 and Level 3.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

One significant reason why the BUF gained support from 1932 was the great depression. There was mass unemployment and the main political parties seemed to have no idea what to do about it. People were ready to listen to the new ideas Mosley put forward. Many people who were fed up with Labour joined the BUF instead (4). At that time it seemed as if Mussolini's policies were being very successful in Italy, so people agreed with Mosley when he said Britain should follow similar policies to Mussolini (5).

Mosley was also a big personality who knew how to make an impact. He was a very good public speaker and the BUF made a strong impression with uniforms, rallies and marching through the streets. As well as the unemployed, Mosley appealed to ex-soldiers and to young people who liked violence. This was quite

(1) This shows sound relevant knowledge but it is very descriptive.

(2) Again, there is accurate detail but any explanation is indirect and implicit.

(3) This provides some explanation, but is yet again too reliant on narrative description.

(4) This is a solid beginning, based on secure knowledge.

(5) Shows good awareness of the wider context of events 1932–34.

<p><u>similar to what was happening with Hitler in Germany at that time (6).</u></p> <p><u>Another reason Mosley gained support was the financial backing he got from Lord Rothermere. He also got favourable press coverage from Rothermere’s newspapers. When Rothermere turned against the BUF in 1934, membership of the BUF quickly fell back. This shows how important the backing from Rothermere was until then (7).</u></p> <p><u>In conclusion, Mosley gained support because he was a brilliant politician with ideas many people thought were correct. But, just like Hitler, the main reason he became so powerful was the world economic crisis that weakened the usual political system and gave him the opportunity to offer something new and exciting instead (8).</u></p> <p>Examiner’s Assessment</p> <p>While not a ‘perfect’ answer, it is a very good one. It has direct and sustained relevance and is concisely written. It develops a range of reasons, using a good combination of knowledge and analysis. It also culminates in an effective conclusion which shows judgement. The answer clearly merits a mark at the top of Level 4.</p>	<p>(6) Direct focus on explanation, with sound evidence and concise expression.</p> <p>(7) This extends the range of reasons and is skilfully linked to other factors.</p> <p>(8) This conclusion provides very good links between the factors already set out and shows good differentiation.</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 rise of the BUF, with little explanation of the reasons behind it; 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 BUF grew, using appropriate knowledge, although the answer may not cover all aspects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[7–9 marks]</p>
<p>L4:</p>	<p>The answer will be well focused on the issue of why Mosley rose to prominence, with a range of explanations, backed up with precise evidence and probably showing a good awareness of links/connections.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[10–12 marks]</p>

AQA – AS GCE Change and Consolidation Unit 1 HIS1L	Britain 1906–1951	QUESTION 1 (02)
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Examiner’s Specific Advice

This question is testing several skills and also your knowledge of the topic. You are expected to know the main details, in this case the problems faced by the National Government between 1934 and 1940 and the policies put in place to deal with them. You are also being required to provide an historical explanation and make a substantiated judgement.

As always with an essay-type question, relevance is the key – your answer should be as concise as possible while taking into account all the demands of the question and its specific wording. Accuracy and clarity are more important than elegance of style.

The key thing is not to narrate and describe, but to keep the precise question in mind: to what extent did the National Government succeed in maintaining political and economic stability?

This means you should evaluate the extent of Britain's recovery from the depression and also the extent to which recovery was due to the National Government, rather than to other factors. If you feel other factors were more important then the balance of your answer would be rather different. Whatever your approach, do make a judgement and back it up with selected evidence.

Exemplar Question

1 (02) How successful was the National Government in dealing with the problems it faced in the years 1934 to 1940? **[24 marks]**

Plan

- Introduction – the context of 1934–40 and the argument you are going to follow
- Long-term factors before 1934 and the problems facing the National Government
- What policies the government introduced and the extent to which they were successful or not
- Brief conclusion focused on assessment and evaluation

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

The National Government was very successful from 1934 to 1940. It had already carried out many successful policies between 1931 and 1934 and it won the 1935 election easily. Both Stanley Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain were very good leaders in domestic policy and everybody agrees that the National Government would have won the next election if there had been one in 1940 (1).

The fact that the National Government had people from different parties working together was popular with the public. The government combined the Conservatives and the Liberals and there was even a Labour prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, from 1931 to 1935. So most people supported the government and its policies (2).

In 1934, the National Government brought in the Unemployment Act. This helped unemployed workers get training and to move round the country to find new jobs. They also set up the Iron and Steel Federation to make the steel industry more efficient (3).

In 1935, they passed the Shipping Act to help merchant shipping. They also brought in the Special Areas Act. This provided millions of pounds to help specially depressed areas like Scotland, Wales and North East England. This helped to lessen the North-South divide in Britain. The economy improved steadily from 1934 on (4).

In 1936 the national Government passed the Public Order Act. This gave the police extra powers to deal with political extremism and demonstrations. It also banned uniforms such as the black shirts worn by the Fascists. Britain did not have the problems with extremists that happened in Europe in the 1930s. Also in 1936, Baldwin was very skilful in handling the Abdication Crisis (5).

There was quite a lot of economic progress in the 1930s. There was a house-building boom and a lot of new industries were set up, such as the car industry and the chemical industry. All this shows how successful the National Government was (6).

(1) This is a relevant beginning, although not explained in any depth.

(2) Accurate evidence about the National Government but only limited evaluation.

(3) Showing awareness of the demands of the question but lacking balanced assessment.

(4) Sound evidence but only limited comment.

(5) Relevant evidence on other factors but lacking in depth of comment or analysis.

(6) Little attention is given to developments from 1937 to 1940. This makes the conclusion unbalanced.

Examiner's Assessment

This is in many respects a good answer. It is relevant, and linked to the question. There is a lot of sound material on the policies of the National Government and consistent attempts to link this evidence to the question, culminating in a sound conclusion. However, it is a very partial answer. There is very little on other factors. The years from 1937 to 1940 are almost entirely ignored. The arguments and assessments offered are rather uncritical and one-sided. As a result, the answer was placed in Level 3.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The National Government faced many problems between 1934 and 1940. The major problems were economic, having to deal with the impact of the great world depression. But there were also other big problems. Inside the country, there was the danger of political extremism, with the rise of Mosley and the BUF and strong support for the Communists. Maintaining political stability was very important. Outside the country there was the threat from Fascist dictators like Mussolini and Hitler and the government had to cope with this, partly through rearmament, which was very expensive. There were many successes for the government but many historians claim that the National Government did not act decisively enough (7).

In terms of the economy, the government passed a lot of acts like the Unemployment Act and the Special Areas Act. They also gave help to struggling staple industries. These measures were mostly small in scale and did not have a huge effect. Unemployment in depressed areas stayed very high, with many men out of work for years. The government did not do much to overcome the North-South divide (8).

The economy did recover slowly after 1934 but this was due to the growth of new industries and consumer spending, not government policies. There was 'cheap money' so it was easy to buy things like cars and houses but that was no use to people who didn't have jobs. The Jarrow March in 1936 showed how people in depressed areas felt the government was not doing enough. The economy only really began to recover because of increased rearmament from 1938 (9).

(7) A convincing introduction, showing good awareness of the demands of the question.

(8) A solid paragraph, providing a balanced view with secure understanding of the question.

(9) Developing the argument, with balanced comment and some judgement.

In terms of political stability, the National Government did have success with the Public Order Act in 1936. Stanley Baldwin was also a popular and effective prime minister who knew how to appeal to different classes. Baldwin also showed political skill in dealing with the Abdication Crisis. However, the threat from political extremism was never that serious in Britain. Mosley and the BUF rapidly lost support after the Olympia rally in 1934 and communism was not much of a threat. This was proved by the fact the Labour Party got strong support in the 1935 elections. Britain was a stable country in the 1930s, completely different to Germany. Most people were patriotic, as was proved when the war began in 1939 (10).

In terms of foreign policy, it could be argued that the National Government was a failure, especially Neville Chamberlain. On the other hand, the policy of appeasement was very popular with the people at first, under Baldwin as well as Chamberlain. Despite this, it cannot be argued that the National Government was successful in dealing with foreign policy because appeasement did not prevent the war from happening and Britain looked like being defeated in 1940 until Churchill rallied the nation with a sense of national unity (11).

It could be said, therefore, that the National Government was not all that successful. Many of its policies have been described as 'tinkering at the edges' and economic recovery happened almost by itself, not because of the government. On the other hand, the National Government lasted for nine years and can be credited with keeping the nation together during the terrible crisis that began in 1931 (12). Even after Chamberlain resigned in 1940, the success of Churchill's wartime coalition government showed how united the British people were and this carried on from what the National Government had done since 1934 (13).

Examiner's Assessment

This is an excellent, wide-ranging answer. It is confidently presented, and combines solid knowledge with analytical depth and judgement sustained throughout the answer. The question is directly addressed by a thematic approach, with a good synoptic understanding of developments between 1934 and 1940. There is a balanced assessment, leading to a convincing conclusion. The

(10) Shows good range of evidence and argument, with a synoptic view of the key dates of the question.

(11) Showing well-judged balanced argument, backed up by analytical evidence.

(12) An effective overview, arising logically out of the arguments earlier in the answer.

(13) Skilful use of 'what happened next' to develop the conclusion.

answer is clearly worth Level 5, maximum marks – 24.	
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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.
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[1–6 marks]

L2:

The answer shows some understanding of the achievements of the National Government between 1935 and 1940. It may be predominantly descriptive, or it may have explicit links with relevant but limited support.

[7–11 marks]

L3:

The answer shows developed understanding of the various problems facing the government and how well they were dealt with. There will be some assessment, supported by relevant 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 successes and failures of the National Government. A balanced argument will be supported by good use of selected evidence and understanding of interpretations.
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[17–21 marks]

L5:

Answers will be well focused and closely argued. The arguments about the aims and achievements of the National Government in these years will be supported by precisely chosen evidence leading to a relevant conclusion, showing judgement and a well-developed understanding of a range of alternative views.

[22–24 marks]

AQA – AS GCE Change and Consolidation Unit 1 HIS1L	Britain 1906–1951	QUESTION 2 (03)
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Examiner's Specific Advice

This question requires a range of skills and a focus on explanation rather than description. You need to find a range of reasons (three or more) for the economic crisis and link those reasons explicitly to 1947. 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 Britain faced a severe economic crisis in 1947. **[12 marks]**

Plan

- Explain the context of the British economy 1945–47
- Produce a range of reasons why there was a severe crisis in 1947
- Consider in the conclusion any links that interrelate these reasons; or any judgements that differentiate which reasons were more decisive than others
- Remember that it is useful to explain, if you can, why things were especially bad in 1947, rather than the preceding years

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

There was a severe economic crisis in 1947 because of the terrible winter. The whole country was frozen up for months. This led to a serious energy crisis. Coal dumps were frozen and the trains could not deliver enough coal. There was a shortage of electricity and so industry had to slow down. This put a lot of people out of work. The government even had to bring in bread rationing (1).

In conclusion, the economic crisis was caused by the exceptionally bad winter weather conditions. This led to the fuel crisis and the fuel crisis led to the economic crisis. That is why the government had to bring in 'austerity' policies (2).

(1) This is a rather descriptive start but there is a clear, if implicit, focus on explaining reasons.

(2) This is a valid conclusion, trying to make connections between the factors raised in the opening paragraph.

Examiner's Assessment

This answer presents accurate and relevant knowledge. Although the information is deployed too much as narrative description, there is a running thread of explanation, reinforced by the brief conclusion, although the focus on explaining reasons could have been more direct. There is a very limited attempt to link factors together. Overall, the answer merits Level 3.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

The short-term cause of the economic crisis in 1947 was extreme winter weather. Britain was hit by constant blizzards and the coal industry could not supply what was needed to keep the country running. Unemployment rose temporarily to 6 million. The energy minister, Emmanuel Shinwell was sacked for being incompetent – he could have stockpiled coal in 1946 but he didn't (3).

Although the winter was a very important reason, there were also long-term reasons behind the economic crisis. Britain had been badly damaged by the war and faced heavy debts. After the war, Britain got huge loans from the US and Canada to help with economic recovery but these loans were already running out by 1947 (4). The British economy had been weak in the 1930s and then ruined by the war. These underlying problems meant that the economy could not cope with the fuel crisis in 1947 (5).

The bad winter was a key factor in the crisis but the real problem was the underlying weakness of the British economy. Britain was still spending too much on the Empire and the armed forces and the pound was overvalued against the dollar. The bad winter in 1947 just exposed how weak the economy was. Britain only recovered through massive aid under the Marshall Plan (6).

Examiner's Assessment

This is a superior answer. It provides a solid range of reasons, backed by extensive own knowledge and showing a good grasp of key issues and definitions. Throughout, the answer shows depth of differentiation and comment, culminating in an excellent conclusion. It merits a mark of Level 4,

(3) This is a good introduction, with detailed knowledge and a direct focus on 1947.

(4) This develops a balanced range of reasons, backed by solid evidence.

(5) Further explanation with some judgement.

(6) A very good, overview conclusion with links between the range of factors provided earlier in the answer and some judgement.

maximum marks – 24.

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 events of the winter of 1946–47, with few links explaining their relationship; 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 crisis of 1947 was severe, using appropriate knowledge, although the answer may not cover all aspects.
[7–9 marks]

L4:

The answer will be well focused on explanations for the crisis of 1947, 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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Change and
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Unit 1 HIS1L**

Britain 1906–1951

**QUESTION 2
(04)**

Examiner's Specific Advice

Answering this essay question requires a balanced argument, supported by accurate relevant evidence. It is more important to provide a direct response to the question than to set out comprehensive factual descriptions of events given, or how they were interrelated.

Exemplar Question

2 (04) How far, by 1951, had the Attlee governments brought about a recovery from Britain's post-war economic crisis?

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. **[24 marks]**

Plan

- Explain and evaluate the extent of the economic difficulties facing Attlee's government in 1945–47
- Consider the overall aims and objectives that guided Attlee's economic policies
- Identify and analyse policy successes
- Balance these successes against policies that partially or completely failed
- Evaluate the economic situation at the end of 1951 in comparison to the economic situation following the end of the war.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 1

The Labour government achieved quite a lot of economic recovery by 1951. This was mostly due to financial help from the United States (1).

In 1945 there was a serious post-war crisis. Britain had run up huge debts during the war and it was very difficult to switch back to a peacetime economy from war production. Britain could only keep going economically with massive loans from the USA and Canada. The Labour government had to keep on using rationing to stop imports coming in and to boost exports. Rationing carried on until 1954 (2).

The Attlee government realised that Britain was spending far too much on the armed forces and overseas commitments. In 1947 Britain withdrew from India. The government also told the US that Britain could not afford to keep defending Greece and Turkey and they would have to withdraw from Palestine. Britain asked for a new dollar loan, even though the 1945 loans were supposed to have lasted much longer. This is why President Truman announced the Marshall Plan to help Britain and Europe recover (3).

The Labour government wanted to bring in many new policies, especially the welfare state and the nationalisation of industry. A new National Insurance Act was introduced along with the NHS. Many Conservatives said the country could not afford the welfare state and that nationalisation would be bad for industry (4).

The Labour government believed in planning. They controlled the economy so that new industries opened up in depressed areas and export industries got special backing. The government also kept up strict controls on exchange and taxation to stop inflation. The government kept on with the wartime policies of Ernest Bevin so as to keep good relations with the trade unions to prevent strikes and to have full employment (5).

(1) A relevant introduction but very brief and assertive.

(2) Sound knowledge of the context, well linked to the question.

(3) Good depth of evidence, relevant to the question but with limited evaluation.

(4) A slight tendency towards narrative description, though with implicit links to the question.

(5) Solid evidence used to develop the answer.

Although there was a serious dollar crisis in 1949 and the pound had to be devalued, the economic recovery was mostly successful. Most people realised that the 'austerity' policies brought in by Stafford Cripps were necessary. By 1951, most rationing was ended and the peacetime economy was working well. This shows how successful Attlee's government had been since 1945 and how much of a recovery there had been from the terrible crisis of 1947 (6).

Examiner's Assessment

This answer is relevant and well directed at the question. The approach is rather descriptive at times but there is good awareness of the demands of the question and some depth of comment. The answer covers the whole timescale of the question well. There is limited coverage of other factors than the actions of the government but there are several valid, balanced arguments. The answer merits Level 4.

Examiner's Exemplar Answer 2

At the end of the Second World War, Britain's economy was in a mess. Many traditional industries were already declining in the 1930s and badly needed investment but this did not happen. The war put the economy under strain because of the need for war production and the huge debts that were taken on from the USA. By 1951 the economy had partly recovered but this was due to many factors, not just the policies of the Labour government (7).

At first, the new government did not have much success. Switching from a war economy to a peace economy was very difficult and it took a long time to get demobilised soldiers back into work. Government spending was too high and the Labour government tried too hard to keep up Britain's role as a world power, including the decision to keep Britain's nuclear weapons. Britain could not afford this and there was a big financial crisis in 1947, and another dollar crisis in 1949 (8).

The Labour government also carried out expensive policies to bring in the welfare state and to nationalise key industries. Nationalisation was supposed to make these industries more efficient but this did not happen. In 1951 the Conservative government de-nationalised the steel industry (9).

The government also made serious mistakes. The minister of supply, Shinwell, was proved incompetent by the fuel crisis in 1947 and had to be sacked. The chancellor, Hugh

(6) A thoughtful overview conclusion, showing good synoptic understanding.

(7) A good overview introduction setting the context of the economy after 1945.

(8) A useful attempt to develop further the explanation of the economic situation.

(9) A direct focus on the question with useful comment and implicit judgement.

<p><u>Dalton, had to resign over the budget scandal. Stafford Cripps brought in a lot of 'austerity' policies but these were not popular. In 1951 Labour was voted out of power and the Conservatives took over for the next 13 years (10).</u></p> <p><u>There was some economic recovery in Britain between 1947 and 1951 but this was mostly due to American financial aid. The US took the lead in rebuilding the world economy after 1945 through the World bank and the IMF. The US provided aid to Britain and Europe through the Marshall Plan and this is what saved them from complete economic collapse (11).</u></p> <p><u>The Labour government did some things to help economic recovery through planning and state controls. They carried through their main policies like nationalisation and the welfare state but this needed a lot of rationing and austerity. From 1951 Britain was relatively prosperous but so was the rest of Europe. This was due to American aid and a general recovery of the world economy, not the Labour government (12).</u></p>	<p>(10) Looking at a range of relevant evidence and showing synoptic understanding.</p> <p>(11) This paragraph provides balanced argument and evaluation.</p> <p>(12) A convincing conclusion, focused on the question and reinforcing arguments made earlier in the answer.</p>
<p>Examiner's Assessment</p> <p>This is a strong answer. The candidate uses relevant knowledge to support a concise and effective central argument. Although lacking analytical detail at times, there is a sustained focus on assessment and very good understanding of the wider context. Overall, the answer merits a mark at the borderline between Level 4 and Level 5.</p>	

<p>Mark Scheme</p>	
<p>L1:</p>	<p>The answer is descriptive, only loosely linked to the question, 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 successes and failures of Labour policies by 1951. It may be predominantly descriptive about what happened during the period, with some basic links to the question, or it may have explicit links with relevant but very limited and general support.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[7–11 marks]</p>
<p>L3:</p>	<p>The answer shows sound understanding of the demands of the question. There will be some assessment, supported by relevant knowledge, although there will probably be a lack of weight of detail and/or balance. There will be some general understanding of interpretations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[12–16 marks]</p>

L4:

There is explicit understanding of the policies of the Attlee governments in the context of the post-war crisis of 1945–51. A balanced argument will be supported by relevant selected evidence and understanding of interpretations.

[17–21 marks]

L5:

Answers will be well focused and closely argued. The arguments about the achievements of the Attlee governments will be supported by precisely chosen evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating a well-developed understanding of interpretations and debate.

[22–24 marks]

Chronology: Key Events in *Britain 1906–1951*

- 1906** 'Liberal Landslide' in general election.
- 1907** Start of Liberal social reforms: Education Act.
- 1908** Children's Act. Old Age Pensions Act.
- 1909** Rejection of the 'People's Budget'.
- 1910** Death of Edward VII and accession of George V. Outbreak of constitutional crisis over the House of Lords.
- 1911** Powers of the House of Lords reduced by Parliament Act. National Insurance Act.
- 1912** Start of Ulster Crisis.
- 1913** Death of Emily Davison at the Derby.
- 1914** Height of the Ulster crisis. Start of the First World War. Defence of the Realm Act.
- 1915** Formation of Liberal–Conservative coalition government. Introduction of conscription.
- 1916** Asquith replaced as Prime Minister by Lloyd George. Battle of the Somme. Secret report to George V concerning the national financial crisis due to the war.
- 1917** Russian revolution. US entry into the war. Battle of Passchendaele.
- 1918** Armistice to end the First World War. The 'coupon election'. Representation of the People Act grants women the vote.
- 1919** Irish War of Independence. Treaty of Versailles signed.
- 1921** Miners' strike. Anglo-Irish treaty and proclamation of Irish Free State.
- 1922** 'Geddes Axe' spending cuts. Fall of Lloyd George coalition. Conservative government under Bonar Law.
- 1923** Bonar Law succeeded as Prime Minister by Baldwin. Conservatives defeated in general election.
- 1924** Minority Labour government under Ramsay MacDonald. Victory for Baldwin and Conservatives in October general election.
- 1925** Britain returns to the Gold Standard.
- 1926** The General Strike.

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- 1928** Extension of votes for women by the Suffrage Act.
- 1929** Formation of Second Labour government under MacDonald. Wall Street Crash.
- 1931** Major financial crisis and collapse of Labour government. Formation of National Government under Ramsay MacDonald. Gold Standard abandoned. Massive victory for National Government in general election.
- 1932** Protective tariffs introduced. Formation of BUF led by Oswald Mosley.
- 1934** 'Battle of Olympia' marks high point of Mosley and the BUF.
- 1935** Victory of National Government in general election. Stanley Baldwin Prime Minister. Death of George V and accession of Edward VIII.
- 1936** Abdication of Edward VIII. Public Order Act passed.
- 1937** Coronation of George VI. Neville Chamberlain Prime Minister after resignation of Baldwin.
- 1938** Hitler achieves *Anschluss* with Austria. Munich conference accepts German annexation of the Sudetenland. Increased rearmament in Britain.
- 1939** Start of the war in Europe after German invasion of Poland. The 'Phoney War'.
- 1940** Resignation of Neville Chamberlain. Formation of Churchill's wartime coalition. Fall of France. Battle of Britain.
- 1941** Lend-Lease agreement with the USA. German invasion of USSR. Widening of the world war to involve Japan and USA following Pearl Harbor.
- 1942** Fall of Singapore. Battle of El Alamein. Beveridge Report issued.
- 1943** Victory achieved in the Battle of the Atlantic and in North Africa. Invasion of Fascist Italy and downfall of Mussolini.
- 1944** D-Day landings and liberation of France. Butler Education Act.
- 1945** End of Second World War. Landslide victory for Labour in general election and complete collapse of Liberal vote. Failure of post-war treaty negotiations at Potsdam. Massive loans to Britain by USA.
- 1947** Severe winter and major financial crisis. Introduction of 'austerity' policies. Nationalisation of the coal industry. Start of US aid through Marshall Plan. British withdrawal from India.
- 1948** National Health Service established by Aneurin Bevan. 'Austerity' Olympic Games held in London. Start of Berlin Blockade.
- 1949** End of Berlin Blockade. Formation of NATO and confirmation of 'Cold War'. Devaluation of the pound sterling.

- 1950** Start of the Korean War. Attlee’s Labour government re-elected with small majority after general election.
- 1951** Festival of Britain. New general election called by Attlee. Election of Conservative government under Churchill. Start of 13 years of Conservative rule.

Teaching Activities

1. For each year of the First World War in the table below, identify issues where the impact of the war brought about significant changes in British society.

	Leadership of the government	State intervention in social policy	Trade unions and strikes	The role of women	The rise of the Labour Party
1914					
1915					
1916					
1917					
1918					

2. Consider the fortunes of the Liberal Party between 1918 and 1951. Identify at least **five** reasons for the virtual collapse of the Liberals as a national party during this time.
3. Make a list of the reasons why the Beveridge Report was widely popular in Britain when it was published in 1942. For each reason, provide a brief assessment of the extent to which the policies of the Attlee governments had satisfied people’s expectations by 1951.

Additional Sample Questions

(a) Explain why the Liberal Party was so successful in the elections of 1906.
[12 marks]

(b) How important was the contribution of Lloyd George to the Liberal welfare reforms in the years 1906 to 1911?
[24 marks]

Weblinks

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/

www.britishpathe.com/

www.conservativehistory.org.uk

www.labourhistory.org.uk

www.liberalhistory.org.uk/

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk