INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

• Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
• Use black ink.
• Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You should spend at least ten minutes doing this.
• Answer all the questions.
• Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
• Do not write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

• The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
• The total number of marks for this paper is 50.
• This document consists of 10 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.
How was British society changed, 1890–1918?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.

In answering the questions, you will need to use your knowledge of the topic to interpret and evaluate the sources. When you are asked to use specific sources you must do so, but you may also use any of the other sources if they are relevant.

Answer ALL questions.

1 Study Source A.

Why was this photograph published in 1900? Use details of the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

2 Study Source B.

How useful is this source to a historian studying life in Britain at this time? Use details of the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]

3 Study Sources C and D.

Which of these sources would have influenced the Liberal government more? Use details of the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

4 Study Sources E and F.

How far does Source E help you to understand why Churchill wrote Source F? Use details of the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

5 Study Source G.

What is the message of the cartoonist in this source? Use details of the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]

6 Study all the sources, A–H.

‘The Liberals passed welfare reforms in this period because of pressure from the Labour Party.’ How far do the sources in this paper support this statement? Use details from the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. [12]
How was British society changed, 1890–1918?

The Liberal welfare reforms

Background Information

From 1906 the Liberal government introduced a range of welfare reforms, including school meals, old age pensions, Labour Exchanges and National Insurance. The Liberals were aware of the problems of poverty and poor living conditions through the work of social reformers. However, some historians argue that it was the pressure of the Labour Party which forced the Liberals to pass these reforms.

SOURCE A

A photograph of people queuing to get into a London workhouse in 1900. It was published in ‘Poverty: The Nation’s Black Stain’ by the campaigning writer George Sims.
On average we take 9 destitute children every day. These children, if not cared for by us, would probably become a cost to the State.

We teach the boys trades and the girls domestic skills, to fit them for the Battle of Life.

We place large numbers of them in jobs in England. Others we emigrate to the Colonies, chiefly to Canada. This is Empire-Building work of the best kind. Help us in this work.

A poster published by the charity Dr Barnardo’s in 1906.
Jago Court gave its name to one of the blackest slums in London – the Jago. The streets of the Jago were black and close. From the foul earth and the grimy walls rose a foul stink. People did not walk with their heads held high in the Jago. They moved more like slinking rats. The houses all had lights even though many front doors had been burned for warmth long since. In this place light kept three kinds of vermin away – the lice, the rats and the cosh carriers. Cosh carrying was almost an industry in the Jago. The cosh was an iron club and cosh carriers waited in dark staircases for the unsuspecting stranger.

From ‘A Child of the Jago’, a novel published by the writer and social reformer Arthur Morrison in 1896. This novel sold in very large numbers.

The Liverpool Welldoers and Social Reform Society
27th March 1906

An Open Letter to the Right Honourable David Lloyd George MP

Dear Sir

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your party’s election victory earlier this year. As an admirer of yours, however, I was disappointed to read a speech you made last week in which you claimed that 60% of the poverty in this country was due to drink. This amounts to over 2 million people. May I ask what you base this claim on? For the last fourteen years I have voluntarily given my whole life to work among the poorest of the poor here in Liverpool. It is my experience that low wages and irregular work are the causes of poverty. I await your reply with interest and I also enclose a report giving more details of the work of my organisation which I hope might interest you.

A letter to David Lloyd George in 1906 from the Chairman of the Liverpool Welldoers and Social Reform Society. The letter was published in several newspapers.
SOURCE E

Unemployment is a national scandal. Over one million ordinary men and women battle daily with the threat of starving. We call for the following measures to be made law immediately:

– Where a workman has registered as unemployed, it shall be the duty of the local unemployment authority to provide work for him, or to provide funds to feed and clothe that person and those depending on him.

– Unemployment authorities shall keep a register of unemployed workers and, as far as possible, offer them work which is best suited to each individual.

– Unemployment authorities should be able to help an unemployed person and any of his dependants to move to another area for work.

*Proposals to help the unemployed, published by the Labour Party in 1907.*

SOURCE F

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Only a rascal is permanently without a job. But large numbers are unemployed for short periods. At the moment there is inadequate information about where workers are needed and where jobs are available.

Some employers take advantage of this situation. They keep a larger number of workers than they need hanging around their gates. Then they take men on sometimes for only a few hours at a time at starvation level wages.

A system like this smashes households like egg-shells. The worker feels helpless and often turns to drink. If we do not address this issue then the working man will no longer support us.

*From a secret report by Winston Churchill, a member of the Liberal government, in 1908. The Cabinet is the name given to the group of senior ministers who run the government.*
SOURCE G

Philanthropist = person who tries to do good
Pitiless = cruel

A cartoon published in 1911.

SOURCE H

The Old Age Pensions Act was brought in by Mr Lloyd George. But it was a well recognised fact that the Liberals would never have passed any measure at all without the pressure of the Labour Party. Labour made the Liberals afraid of losing their reputation as the party which wanted to improve people’s lives.

From the memoirs of Joseph Clynes, a Labour Member of Parliament, published in 1937.
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