

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

Academic Year: 2009-2010

Semester: B

REFERRED/DEFERRED PAPER

Faculty of Humanities, Law and Education

School of Humanities

HMS2

2HUM0325

PEACE, POWER, AND PROSPERITY: BRITISH SOCIETY, 1789-1914 B

DURATION OF EXAM: **2 hours**

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR THIS EXAMINATION:

ONE answer book

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- **Answer Question 1 in Section A AND ONE of the questions in Section B.**
- Ensure you write your candidate number on any sheets which are to be handed in.
- Question Papers must be handed in.

This paper consists of NINE questions on TWO pages

Section A.

Question 1. Comment on the historiographical and historical significance of TWO of the following extracts:

a) In recent times, there has been the growth of local studies in English history which have sought to confront the debates of the 'national' arena by exploring the process of political change on the ground. What such studies have shown is the importance of locality and the failings of an all-encompassing grand narrative as a suitable model for explaining historical change. This increasing development is a useful antidote to the centralising tendencies of mainstream British historiography which has focused excessively on southern England and London in particular. Richard Finlay, 'Review Article: New Britain, New Scotland, New History? The Impact of Devolution upon the Development of Scottish Historiography', *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (April 2001), p. 386.

b) Historians have sometimes reached contradictory conclusions about the importance of the Empire and the pervasiveness of its influence. This is partly because the Empire often merged imperceptibly into a wide range of global British interests which transcended any narrowly territorial view of the world and sources of power and wealth. Andrew Porter, *Oxford History of the British Empire, vol III: the Nineteenth Century* (1999), p. 4.

c) Accounts of 1867 fall into two main schools. The first privileges the role of popular agitation, organized and articulated by the Reform League. In G. M. Trevelyan's words, the Tories 'were afraid'. The second puts more emphasis on a crisis of party and the rivalry between W. E. Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli. For Maurice Cowling, what happened in 1867 was neither a collision of ideas nor an exercise in popular politics, but 'an incident in the history of party'. Robert Saunders, 'The Politics of Reform and the Making of the Second Reform Act, 1848-1867', *Historical Journal*, 50, 3 (2007), p. 572.

d) Ever since the Victorians "discovered" in the 1830s that their industrial towns lacked parks and other open space, the British have been seriously concerned with recreating rural interests in an urban setting. From the 1840s various organizations were set up to encourage the urban industrial worker to return to spade culture and allotments or at least to have his own property stake through cottage ownership. Raymond Williams first exposed the long history of the rural idyll. J. V. Beckett, 'Our Green and Pleasant Land', *Journal of British Studies*, vol 38, no. 2 (April 1999), p. 253.

e) *Family Fortunes* is a book about the ideologies, institutions and practices of the English middle class from the end of the eighteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries...The principal argument rests on the assumption that gender and class

always operate together, that consciousness of class always takes a gendered form. Of course, the articulation of class and gender is never a perfect fit. Indeed, tension between class aspirations and feminine identity was one of the powerful forces in the development of mid nineteenth-century feminism.

Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850* (1987), p. 13.

Section B.

Answer ONE of the following questions:

- 2) How 'new' was the 'New Liberalism' of 1899-1914?
- 3) How successful were the Church of England's attempts to deal with the cities and their associated social problems?
- 4) Which European revolution had the greatest impact upon British politics: 1789, 1830, or 1848?
- 5) To what extent did notions of masculinity change over the nineteenth century?
- 6) Why was Queen Victoria crowned Empress of India in 1877, and how did the British Empire change from 1877 to 1914?
- 7) Why was London subject to many social surveys in the Victorian and Edwardian periods?
- 8) Why were organisations for the preservation of the countryside founded in the nineteenth century, and to what extent were they successful?
- 9) Why did Home Rule become such a divisive issue in both British AND Irish politics, 1870-1914?