

**Mock examination paper:
Peace, Power and Prosperity: British Society, 1789-1914**

Section A

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

a) 'There are the dangers of 'London fixation': of interpreting provincial matters in metropolitan terms. Henry James's remark that "all England is in a suburban relation" to London was less true in the nineteenth century that it has become in the twentieth'.

G.F.A. Best, 'Another Part of the Island', in *The Victorian City: Images and Realities*, ed., H.J. Dyos and M. Wolff (1973), p. 390.

b) 'The absence of a coherent social history of the British middle class has become ever more conspicuous as, with growing precision and sophistication, labour historians have reconstructed the experience and historical trajectory of the working class'.

S. Gunn, 'The Failure of the Victorian Middle Class', in *The Culture of Capital*, ed., J. Wolff and J. Seed (1988), p. 17.

c) 'This a period bounded by Catholic Emancipation on one end and the Alien Immigration Act on the other suggest how fruitfully we might reimagine the Victorian era beyond the traditional Victorian narrative – as well as how consistently questions of citizenship and political belonging turned on ethnic and religious identities in the shifting contexts of imperial confidence, retrenchment and reform'.

A. Burton, *Politics and Empire in Victorian Britain* (2001), p. xii.

d) 'We know far more about the voting habits of the Victorians, the flow of their investments, the development of their local and central government agencies or their views on salvation or the Middle Ages than we do about the relationship, in the various classes of society, between Victorian parents and children or husband and wife, or their views on childbirth, the duties of children or obligations of parenthood'.

A. Wohl, *The Victorian Family: Structure and Stresses* (1978), p. 11.

e) 'It is by siting it in the larger context of culture that Stedman Jones disinfected 'leisure' in his influential article on the remaking of the London

working class at the point of transition to a putative mass society in the 1870s and 1880s'.

P. Bailey, *Leisure and Class in Victorian England* (1987), p. 10.

Section B

Answer ONE of the following questions:

- 2) Why did the Labour party emerge as a parliamentary party from 1900, and why did they not form earlier in the nineteenth century?
- 3) To what extent are historians right to speak of an 'Edwardian crisis'?
- 4) Compare and contrast the development of nationalism in Scotland, Wales AND Ireland in the period 1789 to 1914.
- 5) To what extent did Victorian views on marriage diverge from the realities of married life?
- 6) How influential was the idea of 'Muscular Christianity' in Victorian and Edwardian education?
- 7) How successful were university settlements in tackling the problems of poverty and the urban slum in Victorian Britain?
- 8) Explain the changing nature of British seaside resorts in the period 1850-1914.