



SPECIMEN

General Certificate of Secondary Education
History B (Modern World)

A022

How far did British society change,
1939–1975?

Morning/Afternoon

Specimen Paper

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on a separate answer booklet.
Additional materials: Answer booklet (8 pages)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on the answer booklet.
- Study the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what to do before you start each answer.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers in black ink, in the answer booklet.
- Write the numbers of the questions you have answered in the box on the front of the answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **53**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication in question 5.
- Questions marked with a pencil (✎) will carry 3 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This document consists of **8** pages.

How far did British society change, 1939–1975?

In answering the questions, you will need to use your knowledge of British society 1939–1975 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.

Your answer to Question 5 should be largely based on your knowledge of British society 1939–1975 but you should also use the sources.

Answer ALL the questions.

1. Study Source A.

How useful is this source as evidence about women in Britain in the 1950s? Use details of the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

2. Study Sources B and C.

Which source do you think gives a more accurate view of the job opportunities for women in Britain in the 1960s? Use details of the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [9]

3. Study Sources D & E.

Is Source E more reliable than Source D as evidence of the progress women had made towards equality by the late 1960s? Use details of the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [9]

4. Study Source F

What is the message of this cartoon? Use details of the cartoon and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

5. Study all the sources.

‘In the period 1939–1975, women gained equality in Britain.’

How far do you agree with this interpretation? Use your knowledge of British society 1939–1975 and the sources to explain your answer. [16]

Spelling, punctuation and grammar [3]

Paper Total: [53]

How far did British society change, 1939–1975?

Women

Source A



We beat 'em. Mum—we beat 'em by 3 goals!

Jimmy came racing into the room. "We beat them," he cried. "I never thought we would. Gosh, I'm hungry now!"

"I'm going to make a fresh pot of tea, so don't tell a thing while I am out of the room," said Mum. What a blessing she'd made an extra lot of Jimmy's favourite ham sandwiches. What a blessing she had bought plenty of fresh Sunblest bread.

Sunblest bread is good bread

fresh to the last slice



ISSUED BY THE QUALITY BAKERS OF BRITAIN

An advertisement published in 1953

SOURCE B



For the benefit of old fashioned types that still cling to the belief that women are the weaker sex, let's introduce Ivy Wiggans, an attractive young housewife who'll soon put an end to that nonsense. Ivy makes her living breaking up old boats along the River Thames and selling the scrap metal.

*A still image and the commentary from a short film called 'Girl Barge Smasher'.
The film was broadcast in 1958.*

SOURCE C

We found that a substantial number of girls in school were interested in training for jobs that women would not normally do – heavy work like building or the motor industry. They were also interested in science and technology. But they found it difficult to get useful information and met discouragement wherever they went.

The biggest obstacle to women is that in obvious and not so obvious ways a poisonous atmosphere is created around them. This atmosphere makes it appear strange or comical for women to use their abilities to the full. They are told that they are fit only for the home.

From a report called 'Careers for Women in Industry' by Nancy Seear in 1962. The author was a campaigner for women's rights and later became an MP.

Source D

It is hard to imagine just how different the world was for women before the 1960s. When my mum got married in the 1950s she had to leave her job in a bank. This was not unusual. Without a man's guarantee it was difficult for a woman to get a loan to buy a house or car. Married women were like slaves. Women did not even have control of their own bodies.

My mum was part of the radical political movements of the 1960s which blew apart this repressive and stifled world. The gains women made changed the attitudes of the whole of society. They also changed the lives of millions of women in ways that still help women like me today.

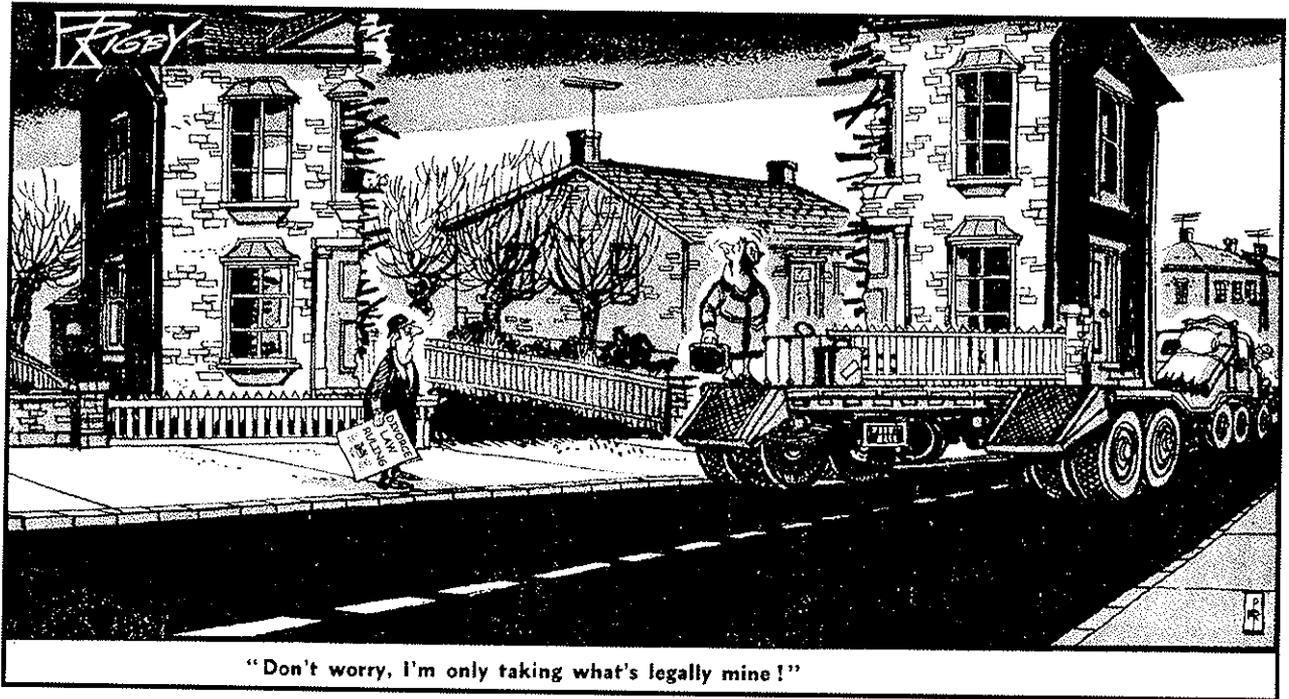
From an article published in 2008 on a feminist website.

Source E

As a writer for this newspaper and then as an MP I have long campaigned against discrimination against women. We have made advances but we have a long way to go. According to a recent government report, discrimination against women is deeply rooted in the life of the country. Prejudice is found in all levels of industry – management, trade unions and workers. In medicine and other professions, it is a scandal how few women have risen to the top jobs. We have a pathetic number of women MPs. Everywhere women are told, directly or indirectly, "Go back to the home!"

From an article by a woman MP published in a newspaper in 1970.

Source F



A cartoon published in a British newspaper in February 1973

How far did British society change, 1939–1975?

Women

Women during World War Two

- During the war many men were fighting or on government schemes related to the war effort.
- In 1941 women were conscripted. If you were a woman aged twenty or older you had to register for war work at a labour exchange, unless you had small children or were pregnant.
- Many women did jobs that men would usually have done, such as being a fire fighter or working in the armed forces.
- Women also played a major role in evacuating children, although it was mainly women in the countryside who helped to look after children.
- The trade unions supported the idea of women workers and campaigned for women to be respected in the workplace and complained about the fact women were paid 25% less than men.
- Some women found it difficult doing war work and looking after children at the same time, so the government organised flexible working hours to help women overcome this problem.

After the war – the late 1940s

- After the war, women who had helped with the war effort enjoyed their jobs and were worried about the government taking them away.
- Luckily, this wasn't the case. The government still needed workers to rebuild Britain.
- The government also tried to attract women to work by offering part time jobs.
- In contrast, many young women did not continue to work after the war. Instead they got married and had children.
- Magazines from this time portrayed the ideal woman as being a housewife and a mother.
- However working gave women more opportunities and time to socialise with other women. It also gave them more confidence so they were less inclined to think that men was superior to women.
- Wages – between the 1920s and 1970s women earned on average 50% of what men did!

Health

- In 1944 Sir William Beveridge drew up ideas for the Welfare State.
- One of his proposals was the National Health Service, which was free health care for everyone.
- This particularly affected women, as before women had to pay for the doctors or take advice from friends and family, and many women died from child birth.
- The NHS reduced the number of women dying in child birth and diseases.
- The average age for women dying was raised from just over 45 in 1910 to 76 in 1970.

Women in the 1950s and onwards

- In some ways, the early 1950s was an exciting time for women. They could go to work if they wanted.
- The cult of domesticity –encouraging the traditional role of women as home-makers, was encouraged by much advertising.
- Changes in education – 1944 Education Act- outlawed the sacking of women teachers who were married, while the provision of good-quality education widened women's horizons.
- By the early 1960s a third of university undergraduates were women.

The 1960s

- The Pill 1961 – gave women more control over their lives – they married and started families later. This increased women's opportunities in education and employment.
- The slow pace of change in women's lives after WW2 frustrated many women.
- A feminist movement to campaign for women's rights and interests emerged.
- Women held strikes, set up organisations, held rallies & lobbied MPs.
- Abortion Act 1967 – came into effect 1968. Made abortion legal in the UK.
- Divorce Reform Act 1969 – allowed divorce on the grounds of adultery, cruelty, desertion for at least 2 years, or by mutual consent after 2 years (or 5 years if only one party wanted the divorce).
- By the end of 1969 there were about 70 'women's lib' groups in Britain.

The 1970s

- Women's Lib really got underway in the 1970s
- In February 1970 the first Women's National Conference was held and it was attended by over 500 women. They demanded equal pay, free contraception, abortion on demand and 24hr nurseries.
- In 1970 the Equal Pay Act was approved and came into full effect in 1975
- In 1970 the Matrimonial Property Act ruled that women should get half of everything when a couple divorced. Before these laws men usually ended up with most of the property and women were often left with nothing.
- In 1975 the Sex Discrimination Act established the Equal Opportunities Commission – its main duties were to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and keep an eye on the workings of the Equal Pay Act



I run the home and look after children.

My husband is the wage earner

Men should hold important managerial jobs – I wouldn't feel comfortable telling a man what to do.

I was afraid of getting pregnant before I got married and now I'm worried about having too many!

Reliable contraception and access to abortion mean that we have more choices and control.

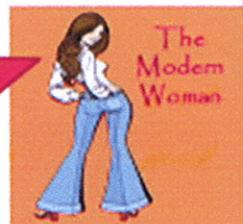
I would never expect to earn the same as a man

I want a career as well as a marriage and family – why can't we have both – men do!

Mothers need reliable childcare

I am as capable of running a company as any man! The Law says I can't be discriminated because I'm a woman!

If you do the same work you should get the same money



WHAT DID WOMEN'S LIB WANT?

The Marriage Bar

War work did change things a bit.
 Post-war many worked part time
 1947 18% of married women worked
 or 10% in the 1930s.

This trend continued.

By 1971 49% of married women worked

Low opportunities continued
 in the 1950s

8/10 working women
 were working in factories, shops
 or as secretaries

1975

SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT
 outlawed sexual discrimination
 in the workplace.

1960s

Famous strike by
 women machinists at
 Ford's in Dagenham.
 ~ They won!

1970
Conference

✓ Equal pay
 ✓ Equal education & opportunity.

✓ Germaine Greer

✓ Alva Myrdal

✓ Viola Klein.

Four
Demands

✓ 24 hour nurseries.
 ✓ Free contraception & abortion
 on demand.

How & How FAR DID OPPORTUNITIES
 IMPROVE FOR WOMEN IN BRITAIN
 1945-1975?

WORK

1955
 The Government agreed
 equal pay in the Public sector

1970
EQUAL PAY ACT

Granted women equal
 wages for doing the
 same work as men.

How?

- i, Not enforced until 1975
- ii, Did nothing about promotion.
- iii, Did nothing about men getting paid more because of experience.
- iv, Nowhere near equal pay by 1976.

1945-1975

WAGES
 OUTSTRIPPED
 PRICE
 = HIGHER STANDARD
 OF LIVING

1945
FAMILY
 ALLOWANCE
 INTRODUCED

HOME

women were usually
 still expected to run the
 family home.

→ Technology helped
 Housework hours fell
 500 mins / day in 1950
 to 345 mins / day in 1975

✓ Consumer Goods
 ~ Washing machines
 ~ Vacuum cleaners

HEALTH

1967
Abortion Act
 made abortion legal

1967
 Family Planning
 Act allowed the
 Pill to be dispensed
 on the NHS

1948
 Establishment
 of the NHS
 ~ support with
 child birth

1969
Divorce Reform Act
 Made Divorce much easier.

1970
MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY ACT
 meant that women would keep
 some of the property if she got
 divorced.

1976
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT
 Enabled women to get a
 court order to stop a violent
 partner from the family home.

In 1910 the average life expectancy of a woman was 45, by 1970 it was 76.

Young People: War (1939-1945)

- During the Second World War life changed for many children because of the Blitz (1940-41)
- The bombing was very frightening for children and parents.
- 40,000 were killed including 5000 children. Nearly 1.5 million homeless
- Evacuation – was voluntary but 50% of city children were evacuated
- Rationing – e.g. meat, cheese, eggs meant children grew up used to shortages
- Children's diet improved with more vegetables and fewer sweets
- Education – there were larger class sizes and part time school as male teachers left for war
- There was also an increasing awareness on the part of the middle classes of the poor conditions for working class children, as children from slums went to live in middle class families in the countryside.
- The Beveridge Report (1944) suggested ways benefit allowances for children & free health care
- The Labour Party won the election in 1945 and introduced the NHS and Family Allowances.

Transition (Late 40s and 50s)

- At the start of the 1950s there was still rationing [until 1954], shortages and bomb damage.
- School places in the late 1940s and 1950s were decided by a test called the '11 plus'.
- Pass the '11 plus' and you went to a grammar school, and probably continued to university.
- Fail it and you went to secondary modern, probably left at 14 or 15 and had a lower paid job – essentially children were sorted into 'sheep' and 'goats' at 11.
- Caning was a punishment for naughty behaviour in the 40s, 50s and 60s and was not completely banned until 1987 (though by the 1970s it is estimated only 1 school in 5 still used this punishment).
- Compulsory military service (National Service) was introduced in 1949. From 1 January 1949, healthy males 17 to 21 years old were expected to serve in the Armed Forces for 18 months, and remain on the reserve list for four years. National Service ended gradually from 1957. In November 1960 the last young men were 'called up' and in 1963 the last National Servicemen left the armed forces.
- Young people acted and dressed like their parents and the term 'teenager' only really became popular in the mid-1950s.
- The lives of teenagers began to change in the 1950s, in part because of the impact of increased wealth, and also because of the impact of American culture.
- The American actor James Dean became a popular hero in the film 'Rebel without a Cause', whilst Elvis had number 1 hits and shocked people with his dancing.
- Separate youth cultures developed in the 1950s with, the growing popularity and impact of rock music, and changes to clothes and fashion.

- 'Teddy Boys' had distinctive jackets and D.A. haircuts. They sometimes formed gangs and had a reputation for street violence.
- There were reports of riots when the American film 'Rock around the clock' was played. However remember that this was a minority – most young people were not rioting Teddy Boys!

Young People: Revolution (1960s and early 70s)

- The 'swinging sixties' are famous for big social changes.
- This was the decade when more young people began to question their parents' ideas and values and to rebel against aspects of society they believed to be wrong.
- Many students in the 1960s became involved in protests for example against the Vietnam War [1968], and against Nuclear Weapons [this group was called CND].
- They staged peaceful 'sit ins' although these sometimes turned violent. The lives of teenagers had changed dramatically by the mid-1970s, however we must be careful about how much, and for how many.
- The authorities were mocked in satirical magazines [Private Eye] and TV shows [That was the Week that Was].
- A survey of who teenagers most respected showed it was their parents and the Queen.
- Teenagers had more money and leisure time.
- As a result they were increasingly targeted as consumers – people to buy records, fashions, and to advertise to on TV.
- Teenagers bought 'transistor radios' which were small and portable.
- Music - The number of 'singles sold rose from 5 million in 1955 to 1960.
- Music shows on TV attracted big audiences e.g. 'Top of the Pops' and 'Ready, Steady. Go!'
- Bands like The Rolling Stones and the Beatles were young men writing for other teenagers and became very popular worldwide.
- Lyrics sometimes talked about sex and drugs e.g. Beatles 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds'.
- Pirate radio stations broadcasted from boats to play the new music until the BBC launched Radio 1 in 1967.
- Fashion – Mary Quant introduced the 'mini-skirt' using the model 'Twiggy'.
- Hairdressers like Vidal Sassoon became famous, and the Kings Road in London became known as worldwide centre of fashion.
- Some teenagers could be violent - for example, Mods [scooters and suits] and Rockers [motorbikes and leather] fought at British Seaside resorts such as Margate in 1964.
- 100 teenagers were arrested in Brighton.
- The newspapers were horrified but there was little actual violence.
- Education changed with the introduction of comprehensive schools and the expansion of universities [50,000 students in 1939 to 390,000 by the end of the 1960s].
- However many people were shocked, when John Lennon said the Beatles were 'more popular than Jesus'.
- Sex - The percentage of teenage mothers did double between 1950 and 1975 (but only from 5% to 10% of all mothers).