Introduction

In studying this component of British history in the twentieth century, it will be necessary to cover other relevant aspects of the subject content in order to provide a broader historical context for students before they engage upon their research.

The key questions that should be considered are:

• To what extent did Britain face similar problems in the aftermath of the First and Second World Wars?
• How far did the reconstruction of Britain in the 1920s and 1930s, and the late 1940s and 1950s change Britain?

The subject content that should be considered is:

• Economic and social problems in post-war Britain: industrial and financial decline; the housing shortage; the General Strike; the Depression (1920s, 1930s); ‘divided Britain’ – prosperous and depressed areas; industrial dislocation and financial debt; the food and housing crisis; the continuance of rationing (1940s).
• Government intervention to deal with industrial unrest (1920s); ‘homes fit for heroes to live in’; government action in the Depression (1930s).
• Reconstruction: the Welfare State, Education and Nationalisation (1940s) and their impact in the 1950s.

Completion of this controlled assessment task must reflect the specified levels of control in current Ofqual regulations for controlled assessment.

The following questions are intended to be answered by reference to the sources in the Sources Booklet provided for this component.
Controlled Assessment Specimen Tasks, Britain and the Aftermath of War

1. Study Sources A to D. Explain how useful these sources have been in informing you in your enquiry into how governments dealt with the social problems Britain in the period 1919 to 1951.

   Explain your answer using the sources and your own knowledge. [16 marks]

2. Study Sources E to K.

   ‘Britain faced worse problems after the First World War than it did after the Second World War.’

   How far do Sources E to K support this interpretation of the problems faced by Britain in the aftermath of the two world wars?

   Explain your answer using the sources and your own knowledge. [24 marks]