Instructions

• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• There are three sections in this question paper. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE question from Section B and the question in Section C.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  – there may be more space than you need.

Information

• The total mark for this paper is 60.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets
  – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Advice

• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

1. How far do you agree that Britain experienced economic progress in the years 1918–39?

   (Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2. How far do you agree that the main reason women saw advancements in their role and status in the years 1945–79 was a result of their war work in the years 1939–45?

   (Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
SECTION A

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross.

Chosen question number:  Question 1  Question 2
SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3  How far do you agree that the growth of university education was the most significant development in education in the years 1918–79?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4  How far do you agree that, in the years 1918–79, the most significant factor improving leisure and travel was the growth of car ownership?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
SECTION B

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box □. If you change your mind, put a line through the box □ and then indicate your new question with a cross □.

Chosen question number:  

Question 3 □  

Question 4 □
SECTION C

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

5 In the light of differing interpretations, how convincing do you find the view that the Thatcher government’s economic policies brought dramatic improvements for Britain?

To explain your answer, analyse and evaluate the material in both extracts, using your own knowledge of the issues.

(20)
Extracts for use with Section C.


In 1979, Britain was the sick man of Europe. Inflation was rampant, the unions were out of control and the nationalised industries were under-performing, unaccountable, and gobbling up billions of pounds in subsidies. Even the French GDP was well ahead of the British. Radical policy solutions had been dismissed. The British were told by all sides that what was needed was stability not change.

18 years later Britain had jumped from 19th to 2nd place on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development rankings of economic performance. It had become a nation of entrepreneurs with self-employment doubling from 7% to 14% of the workforce. The group we call the middle class had leapt from 33% to 50% of the population. Home ownership had also leapt from 53% to 71%, ownership of shares by individuals had gone from 7% to 23% and astonishingly among trade union members from 6% to 29%. Days lost to strikes had dropped from 29.5 million to 0.5 million, and tax rates were slashed. Margaret Thatcher was the pivotal point of the rescue of a country. She was the woman who woke up her nation and made it once again a world leader and player.


For the Thatcher Government’s objectives to be fulfilled a programme of public expenditure cuts was needed, mainly in those areas which contributed to what is known as the ‘social wage’. Such measures included ending the link between the basic state pension and earnings. Other measures included the reduction and abolition of the earnings-related supplement to unemployment and other benefits from 1982, and cutbacks in the provision of sick pay and child benefit. Through these measures, the Government, on the basis of its own criteria, could claim a success in the fight against inflation in the period 1980 to 1984 together with a reduction in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement*. Rather than a deficit, there was, in fact, a public sector surplus in the financial years 1987–88 to 1989–90. The social impact of these measures was evident. The burden of taxation was shifted onto those on low incomes to the benefit of those on high incomes. It was also clear that the ‘welfare state’, along with those it was supposed to serve, was going to have to shoulder the main burden of the Thatcher Government’s economic strategy.

*Public Sector Borrowing Requirement – the amount the government needs to borrow in a particular financial year