

A-level HISTORY

Component 1J The British Empire, c1857–1967

Tuesday 21 May 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1J.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section A**Answer Question 01.**

Extract A

In the twenty years or so after the Second World War, Britain succeeded in disbanding her empire with remarkable dignity and skill. She was known to have decided not to hang onto her colonies forever – it had long been recognised that such a policy was both impracticable and undesirable. Nationalist leaders understood that their real quarrel with Britain was over the timing of independence rather than independence itself. This being the case, most quarrels concerned Britain's estimate of how ready native peoples were to govern themselves. British ministers wanted to hand over power only when a sufficiently educated class was ready and able to administer their country. Until they were convinced that one existed, they felt they would betray their responsibility to native populations should they give up control too soon. Native leaders, on the other hand, pointed out this was bound to take generations and Britain should give proof of her good intentions by bringing natives into the government process.

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Adapted from A Sked and C Cook, *Post-War Britain*, 1979

Extract B

After the substantial decolonisation in Asia in the late 1940s, the American government became much more concerned to keep its European allies devoted to the struggle against communism than to suggest that they should give up any more colonies. Although this now allowed the British to maintain their imperial position free from external pressure, the expenses of the campaigns in Kenya and Malaya were uncomfortably high. Almost all of Britain's colonies had been acquired at very little cost, as the British were unwilling to take control if it involved heavy spending, and the cost of maintaining law and order had been subsequently carried by the colonies themselves. However, the experience of the early 1950s brought about a change, as British taxpayers suddenly had to meet the bulk of the expense they could not afford. From this point onwards it was realised that, unless a larger proportion of the national income than ever before were to be spent on colonial defence, a policy of withdrawal would be unavoidable.

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Adapted from T Lloyd, *The British Empire 1558–1983*, 1984

Extract C

An enduring historical myth, repeated in a number of political memoirs, suggests that Britain excelled in the practice of 'managed decline': sensibly reducing its imperial ambition in accordance with shrinking resources. It was certainly true that the British were extremely reluctant to resist mass political movements, whether in India after 1945 or in Africa after 1959. But they were much more willing to use political force when the odds were more promising and the incentives greater, as in Malaya and Kenya. Nor was it true that after the Second World War British leaders quickly adjusted their vision of Britain's place in the world to its reduced physical power and economic potential. For over twenty years the reverse was the case. Even the supposed champion of realism, Harold Macmillan, was anything but realistic. His grandiose schemes for preserving British world power indicated almost no comprehension of the complex realities of African politics.

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Adapted from J Darwin, *Unfinished Empire*, 2012

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to British attitudes to decolonisation in the years 1945 to 1967.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'Britain's policies towards the peoples of southern Africa were inconsistent in the years c1857 to c1890.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** 'Britain's colonial administrators brought benefits to both Britain and the peoples they governed, in the years c1890 to 1914.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 4** To what extent did Britain's economic relationship with its Empire change during the years 1914 to 1939?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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