

History – British Isles

Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.
An asterisk * indicates a question on Welsh History.

SECTION A

1. Discuss the importance of non-documentary sources for the medieval historian. Please use specific examples.
2. Can historians ever be objective when writing about the past?
3. To what extent are historians able to uncover the 'truth' of past events?
4. To what extent can the work of historians be used to inform modern political debates?
5. What challenges do historians face when writing the histories of ordinary people in the medieval period and how can they overcome these?
6. In what ways can historians use digital technologies within their research?

SECTION B

Early and Medieval Period

7. What effect did the Norman Conquest in 1066 have on England?
8. Why did the nobility revolt against King John?
9. What effect did Magna Carta have on the power of kings in high medieval England?
10. What impact did the Wars of the Roses have on late medieval England?
11. What effect did the Black Death have on late medieval England?
12. What were the causes of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381?
13. To what extent was Llywelyn ap Gruffudd's principality an attempt to create something completely new in Wales?*
14. Are Edward I's castles mainly a sign of his strength or his weakness in Wales?*
15. What were the main consequences of the Glyndŵr Rebellion?*

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Early Modern Period

16. To what extent can the Church of England during the reign of Henry VIII be considered Catholicism without the Pope?
17. What was the short-term impact of Henry VIII's decision to break with Rome?
18. To what extent was Wales a Protestant nation by 1603?*
19. To what extent did England experience a religious revolution during the reign of Edward VI?
20. To what extent can Tudor Britain be said to have been in constant state of social crisis?
21. What were the causes of the English Civil War?
22. What impact did the execution of Charles I in 1649 have on seventeenth-century England?
23. To what extent was the English Civil War a genuinely 'British' conflict?
24. Was there anything glorious about the Glorious Revolution?

Modern Period

25. Was the industrial revolution driven by the steam engine?
26. How important was the Empire to the ways the Victorians thought about themselves?
27. Did the Industrial Revolution improve the lives of the majority of working people in Britain in the period 1780-1850?
28. Why was there a 'reform crisis' in 1830-2 and who benefitted most from the Reform Act of 1832?
29. What were the aims of the Chartist movement and how did it try to achieve them?
30. Should we describe feminism in the 1860s and 1870s as a movement or a network?
31. Why did medicine gain power and political influence in the nineteenth century?
32. Were women's lives and status transformed by the First World War?
33. How socialist were the Labour governments of 1945 to 1951?
34. How important was the Empire to the British economy?
35. To what extent did the Second World War help India to achieve its independence?
36. Why was the policy of Home Rule so important to the Liberal Party?
37. Assess the impact of the First World War on the decline of the Liberal Party and rise of the Labour Party.
38. Why were the 1930s Churchill's 'wilderness years'?
39. Why, having 'won the war', was Churchill voted out of office in 1945?
40. How influential a figure in national and international politics was Churchill after the Second World War?
41. Assess the significance of the Suez Crisis on Britain's domestic and international politics.
42. Has the social change of the 1960s been exaggerated?
43. Why did Labour win a landslide election in 1997?