

His 3110, SP 2007, Final Exam Review (additional comments for preparing essays)

Part II (30%) From Prime Ministers David Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald, Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, and Clement Attlee, I will choose three about two of whom you will write **one** essay (at least four paragraphs) in which you compare:

- (1) their qualifications/achievements before entering the chief office,
- (2) their domestic policies or achievements in office (of Prime Minister),
- (3) their military or diplomatic achievements (of Prime Minister).

Provide evidence.

Prime Ministers chronological:

Herbert Henry Asquith 1908-16 Liberal
David Lloyd George 1916-22 Liberal (& Coalition)
Andrew Bonar Law 1922-23 Conservative
Stanley Baldwin 1923 Conservative
James Ramsay MacDonald 1924 Labour
Stanley Baldwin 1924-9 Conservative
James Ramsay MacDonald 1929-35 Labour (& Coalition)
Stanley Baldwin 1935-7 Conservative
Arthur Neville Chamberlain 1937-40 Conservative
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill 1940-5 Conservative (& Coalition)
Clement Richard Attlee 1945-51 Labour
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill 1951-5 Conservative

Part III (40%) Write **one** well-considered essay (at least five paragraphs) answering one out of two of the following questions. Be sure to refer to and to explain the significance of specific events, persons, and ideas when appropriate. [For up to 5% extra credit on your final grade, write a second essay answering the second question.]

- 1) "In both Imperial and Foreign Policy, Britain's greatest successes since 1900 have come from embracing appeasement and compromise and opposing or delaying conflict. Conversely, Britain's greatest disasters, despite initial appearances to the contrary, have come from rushing into conflict with foreign or colonial foes." Comment on the truth or falsity of this statement, using at least two examples in both imperial and foreign policy since 1900.

This question asks you to take both imperial (colonial) and foreign policy and ask how successful appeasement has been. It asks you to define appeasement and ask whether it is present at, say, the Boer War, WWI, WWII, the Ethiopian Crisis, the Spanish Civil War, the Sudetenland Crisis, the Suez Crisis (1956 and we didn't discuss, but Eden was Prime Minister then and had been under Neville Chamberlain and resigned over appeasement in 1938 over the Munich Crisis [(Sudetenland)], Indian nationalism, Irish revolution, etc. Your answer is less important (yeah or

neah) than your details. Discussing only Hitler and Chamberlain will not be enough for this essay.

2) "George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937) reveals that Britain during the 1930s faced one over-riding problem at home and one problem in its relations abroad. Moreover, these domestic and foreign problems remained largely unchanged from the 1900s to the 1950s." What were the two key problems of the 1930s referred to in this quote? How does Orwell discuss and evaluate these problems? Were these in fact the key problems faced by Britain in the first half of the 20th century? Or would you point to other key difficulties?

This asks for the key domestic problem and the key foreign/colonial problem faced by Britain between the 1900s and 1950s. Abroad is it Ireland, India, Germany, the United States, Russia, France? At home is it poverty, underinvestment in new technology, lack of raw materials, political division, federalism (England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland)? What does Orwell think are the problems (I'd suggest fascism and class obsession)? Do you have evidence for how these issues (I did a shorthand for foreign/colonial issues by just naming places) affected Britain?

3) "The British Welfare State has been expanding steadily since 1900, and is as much a Liberal and Conservative achievement as it is a Labour one." Discuss the validity of this statement. Be sure to define the Welfare State and to note specific policies and acts by different governments that helped create (or dismantle) this Welfare State.

This asks mainly about changes in social policies from 1900-1950s (you can take it up to the 2000s if you want so you can throw in Thatcher and dismantling of the socialist consensus 1979-1991, but we haven't read nor discussed that era). What did the Liberal Party do in the 1910s? What type of welfare statism was there during the "war socialism" of the first and second world wars? What of the Conservatives' housing and welfare policies between the wars? Did Labour do anything to promote social welfare while in power in 1924? In 1929-? How did the Means Test restrict welfare in the 1930s? Under whom? What did the Beveridge Report (led by a Liberal) do? What did Attlee and Labour do after 1945? Did Conservatives continue same after 1951?