

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS

Tuesday 21 April 2015

9 to 12

Paper 6

BRITISH POLITICAL HISTORY, SINCE 1880

*Answer **three** questions.**Write your **number** (not your name) on the cover-sheet of each answer booklet.***STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS***20 Page Answer Book x 1**Rough Work Pad*

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1 What role did religion play in Gladstone's Liberal Party?
- 2 How significant was 'Villa Toryism' in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
- 3 What impact did the New Liberalism have on **either** Conservative **or** Labour electoral strategy in the early twentieth century?
- 4 Why was the Labour Representation Committee formed in 1900?
- 5 'Without the Great War, the Liberal Party would have survived as the second main political party in Britain.' Discuss.
- 6 'The Conservative Party of the 1920s had more in common with Lord Salisbury than with Harold Macmillan.' Discuss.
- 7 'Appeasement was a popular policy in interwar Britain.' Discuss.
- 8 **Either** (a) What were the consequences of the Labour Party's split in 1931?
Or (b) How did the 1945 government reconcile the competing demands of 'working-class' and 'middle-class' politics?
- 9 'It's a housewife's budget!' [CONSERVATIVE PARTY POSTER, 1952]. What does this poster tell us about the issues that divided the main political parties in the 1950s?



- 10** Why did the Sunningdale Agreement collapse in 1974?
- 11** What were the achievements of Harold Wilson as prime minister and as leader of the Labour Party?
- 12** Why did Margaret Thatcher win such large parliamentary majorities?
- 13** **Either** (a) Why was the Conservative Party out of office between 1997 and 2010?
- Or** (b) 'New Labour was principally "new" in its style of party and media management.' Discuss.
- 14** In explaining the enfranchisement of women, which are more important: ideas about gender, or ideas about the British constitution and the nature of representation?
- 15** **Either** (a) How much of an effect have the mass media had on voting behaviour? Answer with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.
- Or** (b) Why has the share of the popular vote won by the two main political parties in General Elections declined since 1951?
- 16** 'Entry into Europe brought about the most significant constitutional changes in Britain in the period since 1880.' Discuss.
- 17** What effects did the end of Empire have on the electoral strategies of the Conservative Party?
- 18** What impact did the Great War have on Irish nationalism?
- 19** Assess the impact of **either** the mass media **or** the decline of religion on the survival of regional identity in British politics. Answer with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.
- 20** 'The ideas of economists and political philosophers ... are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else' [JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES]. Discuss with reference to the political impact of the ideas of **either** Keynes **or** neoliberal economists like Friedman and von Hayek **or** both.
- 21** What effects did the 'myth of the Blitz' have on postwar domestic British politics?
- 22** Assess the reasons for the relative strength of Unionism in Scotland and Wales. Answer with reference to any period of **thirty years or more**.

END OF PAPER