

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS

Tuesday 21 April 2015

9 to 12

Paper 5

BRITISH POLITICAL HISTORY, 1688–1886

*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 How 'revolutionary' was the impact of the events of 1688-89 on British politics in the three subsequent decades?
- 2 Who were Walpole's heirs?
- 3 'George III exerted an active and wholly negative influence on British politics.' Discuss with reference to any period of **twenty years or more**.
- 4 Did war help or hinder domestic political stability? Answer with reference to any period of **thirty years or more**.
- 5 'Increasingly professionalised but still largely unrepresentative.' Discuss this description of politics with reference to any period of **thirty years or more** between 1784 and 1886.
- 6 'Religion was of little importance to the political squabbles of the 1820s and 1830s.' Discuss.
- 7 **Either** (a) 'I believe that without party, parliamentary government is impossible' [BENJAMIN DISRAELI, 1872]. How reasonable is this assessment of British politics between 1832 and 1886?

Or (b) How effective were pressure groups at mobilising opinion outside parliament between 1832 and 1886?
- 8 Why was Palmerston able to dominate politics for so long?
- 9 'Gladstone and Disraeli were really very similar politicians, although neither of them would have cared to admit it.' Discuss.
- 10 'A patriotic, popular movement.' How reasonable is this description of **either** Liberalism **or** Conservatism after 1867?
- 11 'Monarchical in form but republican in spirit.' Discuss this characterisation of Britain with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.
- 12 'Piecemeal concessions, unwillingly granted.' To what extent is this an accurate description of parliamentary and constitutional reform between 1829 and 1884?
- 13 **Either** (a) To what extent did international connections complicate the equation of Protestantism with 'national identity'? Answer with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.

Or (b) 'Reluctant imperialists.' Discuss this characterisation of British state action with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.
- 14 How important was the availability of information to the nature of political debate? Answer with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

15 **Either** (a) ‘The rhetoric of the minimal state was not matched by the reality of state action.’ Discuss with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.

Or (b) ‘The British state was largely uninterested in the welfare of its citizens.’ Discuss with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

16 Was there an eighteenth-century radical tradition?

17 ‘Chartism was never really a coherent movement and posed very little threat to political authority.’ Discuss.

18 How did ideas about gender and citizenship interact? Answer with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.

19 ‘A pillar of the constitution.’ Discuss this description of the Church of England with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

20 ‘Divisions within Scotland were much more important than differences between Scotland and the rest of Britain.’ Discuss with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

21 How successful were British politicians in managing relations with Ireland? Answer with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

22 How important was parliament in shaping British foreign policy? Answer with reference to any period of **seventy years or more**.

23 ‘Political leaders were constrained by the available political languages.’ Discuss with reference to any period of **thirty years or more**.

24 ‘Being in opposition amounted to little more than disagreeing with the administration’s proposals.’ Discuss with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.

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