

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Summer Examinations 2015/2016

### **The British Economy in the Twentieth Century**

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Time Allowed: 1.5 hours.

Answer **TWO** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Read carefully the instructions on the answer book provided and make sure that the particulars required are entered on each answer book. If you answer more questions than are required and do not indicate which answers should be ignored, we will mark the requisite number of answers in the order in which they appear in the answer book(s): answers beyond that number will not be considered.

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1. Describe the main trends in absolute and relative poverty in Britain in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What are the most important factors in explaining these trends? **(50 marks)**  
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  2. Evaluate the role of markets in shaping British manufacturing in the 20th century. How has this affected productivity performance, 1900-1950? **(50 marks)**  
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  3. Thatcher's economic reforms have often been credited for British economic catch-up in the late 20th century. To what extent does the evidence support this assertion? **(50 marks)**  
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  4. How have new technologies changed the organization of British service sector firms in the 20th century? Has this worked for or against relative productivity in services, compared with other countries? **(50 marks)**  
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  5. Explain the macroeconomic causes and effects of Britain's depression in the 1920s. How bad was it, and why? **(50 marks)**  
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  6. What were the key elements of the postwar (1946-73) social pact among workers, firms and the state? To what extent was this a sustainable model for long-run economic growth? **(50 marks)**  
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