

CHANGING BRITAIN¹⁸⁵¹⁻¹⁹⁵¹

New Higher
History
2010.
Question
Booklet.
TGS
J Davidson.



Chapter 4 : How successful were the Liberal Reforms?

This chapter will assess the effectiveness of the reforms the Liberal Government of 1906 - 1914 brought in. These social reforms attempted to help the old, the young, the sick and the unemployed.

This is a popular question in the Higher History exam because a question like, 'How successful were the Liberal Reforms in dealing with the social problems at the time?' allows you to make

judgements on an issue. In Higher History essays, it is not enough to just 'tell the story', you must also develop a line of argument. This is not as difficult as it sounds.

In this section, you will break it down into 'Young, Sick, Old, Unemployed' and consider each, i.e. What was the problem (e.g. Young)? What reform did the Liberal Government bring in to tackle the problem? What did it succeed in solving? What

were the limitations of that reform? Are there any historian's judgements I can use? What is my summing up of the evidence? Then go through the other problems - Sick, Old etc.

Read the blue box at the top of p.55 of your textbook.

How successful were the Liberal Reforms?

Using the textbook, *Britain & Scotland and Germany*, Chapter 4, answer the following:

The Reforms dealing with children.

School Meals

- 1) The extract from Amie Hicks' 1885 pamphlet identified two problems regarding poor children and meals. What were they?
- 2) What was deemed child cruelty in 1905 by the Committee on Physical Deterioration?
- 3) Describe what the Labour MP Fred Jowett did in Bradford and also, identify his argument regarding school meals in his maiden speech.
- 4) Either copy or better still, put into your own words, what the textbooks says about the 1906 Provision of Meals Act.
- 5) The textbook gives very brief details on the Meals Act and is also simplistic in its assessment. You are strongly advised to look a bit further into the Meals Act using the old Higher textbook to add to your notes.

Medical Inspections

- 1) What were the findings of the Inter-Departmental Committee regarding children?
- 2) Did they find that the local authority was acting upon these medical inspections?
- 3) Using pp.56-57, explain what the Liberal government brought in in 1907 and sum up how effective it was.
- 4) The textbook gives very brief details on the Medical Inspections and is also simplistic in its assessment. You are strongly advised to

look a bit further into the Medical Inspections using the old Higher textbook to add to your notes.

The Children's Charter

- 1) Explain why children were considered to be 'deserving poor'
- 2) Describe, in detail, what the Children's Act of 1908 tried to achieve.
- 3) Why was it called the Children's Charter?
- 4) How does the textbook sum up the success of the Charter?
- 5) Again, the textbook is a bit brief on the details of the Charter and is also simplistic in its assessment. Look a bit further into the Charter using the old Higher textbook to add to your notes.

Extension:

- Using your notes and any other resources you can access, come to a judgement on how effective were the Liberal Reforms in dealing with the problems regarding the young?

How Successful were the Liberal Reforms? (contd.)

The Reforms dealing with the old.

- 1) Look at the 1909 quote from Lloyd George and, in your own words, explain why he felt it was time to do something for the old.
- 2) Describe what the 1908 Old Age Pensions Act did.
- 3) What was Lloyd George's hope regarding the Pensions Act? (Use his quote at the top of p. 59)
- 4) Using p. 59 of the textbook, make some detailed notes regarding the limitations and failings of the Pensions Act, noting the conclusion the book comes to.
- 5) Look back at Source 4.3 - Attempt to answer the question raised there. Discuss it with a partner.

Reforms dealing with the sick.

- 1) Sum up the situation regarding the sick in 1911.
- 2) Explain the part Germany played in convincing Lloyd George that Britain needed an insurance scheme to help the sick.
- 3) Using the rest of p. 60, make detailed notes on the two parts of the 1911 National Insurance Act, what it did and what were its limitations and failings.

How helpful was the National Insurance Act?

- 1) It is exactly the kind of information that the textbook provides under this heading on p.61 that is required in your 'judgement' section of a Higher essay, so take good notes on 'How helpful was the NI Act?' based on p.61.

Helping the unemployed.

- 1) Sum up the limitations of Part 2 of the National Insurance Act, dealing with the unemployed.
- 2) Make sure you read the quote from William Beveridge at the bottom of p.61.

Was the scheme helpful?

- 1) Make your own notes on this question using p. 62.
- 2) What did the unemployment scheme rely upon?

Working conditions

- 1) Describe what the Liberal government did to help improve pay and working conditions at this time. Mention also any limitations to their attempts. Make detailed notes.
- 2) What were the pros and the cons of the Labour Exchanges introduced in 1909?

Extension work:

- If you time, it would be a good idea at this stage to organise and summarise into a grid, all that you have learned so far, e.g. what problems were to be attacked?; what were the problems?; what Acts were brought in?; what did they do?; what did they fail to achieve?

How successful were the Liberal Reforms? (contd.)

How effective were the Liberal Reforms?

Before you start this section, take a few moments to consider and discuss with a partner, how you are going to measure 'effectiveness' or success? Look back at the blue box at the top of p. 55. Also, think about the poor themselves - did their lives improve at all, however small?

1) The textbook begins with a supportive, positive judgement on the Liberal Reforms. Copy or put this judgement into your own words.

2) Sum up the textbooks more negative judgement on the reforms.

3) What is the textbook's overall summary?

4) These Reforms saw a new 'interventionist' approach by the British government. What does that mean?

5) Did the Liberal Government of 1906 - 1914 create a Welfare State?

Extension Work

Have a look at the Activity 1 on p.64.

Essay Practice

Read through the 'Essay Writing' section on p. 65, then make a start on this essay. Your teacher will give you some help and it will be discussed in class. This essay should be a maximum of three sides, done in class and should be completed in 40 minutes. You will be given a date to hand it in and it will be marked according to SQA marking criteria.