Summer Examinations 2015

HIS302615N

Module Title: British Society Under Pressure, 1880 – 1945
Level: Six
Time Allowed: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to students:

- Please enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
- Answer two questions: one question from Section A and comment on one from Section B.
- Section A carries 67% of the overall marks. Section B carries 33% of the overall marks.
- Begin each answer in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering. The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

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**Section A**

Section A carries 67% of the overall marks.

Answer **one** of the following questions. Use at least **two** examples of specific pressure groups to support your argument.

1. What was new about the labour movement in Britain in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and how were these new developments manifested in pressure group politics?

2. What attracted conservatives to the policy of Tariff Reform?

3. ‘All phenomena of government are phenomena of groups pressing one another, forming one another and pushing out new groups and new representatives’ (Arthur Bentley, 1908). Discuss.
Section B carries 33% of the overall marks.

Comment on one of the following:

4. **E. Belfort Bax, statement of Social Democratic Federation policy from ‘Liberalism and Labour’ (1903)**

We of the S.D.F. believe in the entire transformation of the social system itself, and this remains at once our primary and our final aim, willing as we are to work for all palliatives of the present system that tend in this direction, when occasion offers. We know that this transformation can only, in the last resort, be effected by the class-conscious proletariat as embodied in a political party distinct from either Tory or Liberal Party as they have existed historically and as they exist at present. It is not that there is any greater intrinsic virtue, within the boundaries of existing class Society, in a working-man than in a middle-class man. Both classes necessarily have the defects of their class character. There is only this difference: the working class is the class elect of history in the course of economic evolution to give birth to this great change. But for all this, though we know the change must be brought about by a working-class movement and a party composed primarily at least of working-class elements, our touchstone where individuals are concerned, is invariably that of principle rather than of class. A middle-class man, if he were sound in principle, would be for us preferable as a candidate to a working man who was shaky in principle. This is the difference between the Social Democratic Federation and all amorphous Labour Parties, “Independent” or otherwise.

Section B continues overleaf