



Ark Globe Academy
Year 11 to 12 Transition Work:
British History

AQA Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906 – 57



To-do List

<u>Task</u>	<u>Instructions</u>	<u>Complete?</u>
<u>Task 1: Organisation</u>	Buy a Lever Arch folder for the British side of the course (or collect one from Sixth Form) and a pack of 10 dividers. You will need to divide your folder into the following sections: 1. Course Info 2. Lessons PPs 3. Part I 4. Part II 5. Part III 6. Reading 7. Assessment (Follow the diagram)	
<u>Task 2: Background Reading</u>	Complete the reading and 3 questions on what Britain was like in 1906.	
<u>Task 3: MindMap/Diagram</u>	Create a MindMap or diagram showing the strengths and challenges Britain faced in 1900.	
<u>Task 4: Definitions</u>	Learn the 20 key terms related to Britain ready for a test in the first lesson	
<u>Task 5: Example Essay</u>	Read through the Intro and 1st paragraph on 'The welfare reforms of the Liberal governments, had only limited success in dealing with the causes of poverty between 1908-1914.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. <i>Identify the argument being made and write this in your own words. Highlight the Point, Evidence and Explanation used in the 1st paragraph. Identify how this is different from a 16 mark GCSE question.</i>	

Task 2: Background reading

Complete the reading to answer these three questions in detail. Use the definitions from task 4 to help you.

In terms of its economy during the 1800s Britain had developed from an agricultural nation with a population of around 10 million to an industrial nation that could now boast a population in the excess of 30 million and growing still. Britain was now known as the 'Workshop of the World' and was leading the way in industrial development. As a nation Britain was wealthy, powerful and strong. There were new inventions which were pioneered in areas such as cotton spinning and weaving. However over the last 20 or 30 years of the 19th century other nations had started to catch up with Britain such as the USA and Germany. Some were even overtaking Britain in certain areas – Steel in the USA and Germany. One could summarise by saying that by 1900, on the surface Britain was still very powerful but there were disturbing developments that lurked under the surface that would come to undermine Britain's position economically.

Both of the main political parties, Liberals and Conservatives, in the 1900s believed that Britain's wealth and power was down to its trade and industry which Britain had built a worldwide empire on. The prevailing political attitude was 'Laissez Faire' or leave it alone with regards to the economy. This meant leave business people to do business without restrictions, thus very little legislation or ruling by the government – for example no taxes on imported goods (this was called Free Trade). There was no interference with how businesses were run. All governments since the mid-19th century had followed this policy and reduced or abolished custom duties (taxes on imported goods).

Britain's population in 1900 was a mixture of rich and poor. In 1900 at the top of the scale were landowners and businessmen earning up to £700 per year. Next the small shopkeepers, teachers and bank clerks who struggled to maintain a middle class image. At the bottom of the ladder you found around 80% of the population who belonged to the working class. Within this group were some better and some worse off workers – for example a printer could earn around £2.50 per week whereas an agricultural workers had to survive on as little as 70 pence per week. About one third of the population lived below the poverty line (that is the have less than the very basic amount needed to survive). Most families spent every penny simply to survive, they were unable to save for emergencies or illness. There were no pensions, sickness or unemployment benefit in 1900, if you were out of work this meant destitution.

By 1900 there were a number of political developments that had occurred in Britain. Most men could now vote but no women were allowed to do so. Some laws had been passed to try and improve conditions in the new towns that were being built but again this was piecemeal and did not have the desired impact. Most areas in fact had changed very little over the past 100 years. Politicians came from the ruling classes, that is so say the landed aristocracy and wealthy businessmen. The House of Lords (which was not voted for) saw itself as superior to the House of Commons (which was elected). There were very few working class men in Parliament at this time and the Government was mainly formed out of Liberal and Conservative parties. The Liberals main body of support actually came from the working class who identified most closely with this party at the time. The Conservatives gained their support from wealthy businessmen and country land owners. However it should be noted that neither side had exclusive support from these groups and there were many 'floating voters' who voted on certain issues at the time."

1. How strong was Britain's economy in 1900?

2. How fair was society in 1900?

3. What was the biggest challenge facing Britain in 1900?

Task 3: MindMap/Diagram

Use the reading to create a mind map of Britain's strengths and weaknesses in 1900.

Task 4: British History Key Terms Definitions

1) Old Liberalism	Wanted a limited role of the state, emphasised <u>freedom of the individual</u> to do things and self-reliance as the best way to promote the welfare of individuals and the state. Against the notion of 'giving people something for nothing' (e.g. welfare benefits) as it infringed personal freedoms.
2) New Liberalism	Adapted the concept of freedom to focus on ' <u>freedom from</u> ' poverty and hardship. This justified state interference and legislation to improve people's living conditions (e.g. Social reforms). Focused on 'safety nets' to prevent destitution for the hard working
3) Free Trade	international trade left to its natural course without tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions
4) Tariff Reform	Government taxes imposed on foreign <u>imports</u> , to protect domestic markets and the raise revenue for the government.
5) Laissez Faire	'Leave it alone' economic principle that governments should not interfere in the economy
6) Balance the budget	Governments should only spend (expenditure) as much as they have (income). They should never put the country into debt by borrowing.
7) Gold standard	The gold standard was a commitment by participating countries to fix the prices of their domestic currencies in terms of a specified amount of gold. National money and other forms of money (bank deposits and notes) were freely converted into gold at the fixed price.
8) Orthodox Economic Policy	Belief that Free Trade, Laissez Faire, Balanced Budget and Gold Standard are the principles by which all governments should oversee the economy
9) Keynesian Economic Policy	Challenged Orthodox Economic policy, as the free market wasn't working and therefore Keynes argued that the government should borrow money to spend on public works to create jobs and encourage economic growth (like the New Deal in America).
10) Independence	Complete political freedom from Britain. Ireland would govern all affairs from a government in Ireland.
11) Home Rule	Policy to reduce the political control Britain had over Ireland. Ireland would govern domestic affairs, whilst Britain would still have control over foreign affairs and trade.
12) Republicanism	Reject monarchy in favour of a head of state elected/ appointed from the people of the country. Believed that Ireland should be an independent republic.
13) Nationalism	Believed that the Irish were a distinct nation, separate from Britain and should be allowed self-rule.
14) Militancy	the use of confrontational or violent methods in support of a political or social cause.
15) Syndicalism	The theory that interests of owners and workers were completely opposed. They believed that the capitalist system could be overthrown through 'direct action' (general strike/ violence).
16) Deserving Poor	Idea that some people were poor through no fault of their own, eg children, the sick, the elderly. These people deserved help
17) Undeserving Poor	Idea that the poor were poor because they were lazy and ideal
18) First past the post	A voting system used in Britain, in which a person is elected because they get more votes than anyone else in the area that they want to represent
19) Mandate	Support for action given to someone by the people voting for them:
20) Constitutional Crisis	The fundamental principles of the British government being challenged

Task 5: Example Essay

The welfare reforms of the Liberal governments, had only limited success in dealing with the causes of poverty between 1908-1914.' Assess the validity of this statement

Although the Liberal reforms were groundbreaking they were all limited in their success in dealing with the causes of poverty as the Liberals were focused on only helping those they considered to be the deserving poor whilst also balancing the budget.

Old Age Pensions did not deal with the cause of poverty for elderly and therefore was it was limited. Although 1 million people, received 5 shillings a week this was still not enough to keep them out of poverty, this was 2 shillings less than Rowntree showed was required to prevent old age being a cause of poverty. Nevertheless, Old Age Pensions were ground breaking as it was non-contributory. Lloyd George paid for this increased taxation through the People's Budget. This meant that, wealth was redistributed from the wealthy to the poor, making it hugely successful at the time in dealing with some causes of poverty because it established state intervention for the poor. However, only people that were older than 70, earned less than £21 a year and had no criminal record were eligible for the pension. Therefore, it was unsuccessful in preventing the causes of poverty because it only helped people the Liberals considered to be the deserving poor. Also, the average life expectancy was lower than 70 therefore, it did not deal with the cause of poverty because not enough of those in poverty due to old age would benefit from it. This shows that the Old Age Pension was limited in dealing with the causes of poverty as too few people benefited from it.