|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Entrance Examination**  **March 2022** |
| **HISTORY – BRITISH ISLES**  Time allowed: 1.5 hours (90 minutes)  **Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.**  **An asterisk \* indicates a question on Welsh History.** | |

**SECTION A**

1. How do historians use materials produced and preserved by colonial institutions to decolonise history?
2. Do historians have anything to gain from visits to heritage sites?
3. To what extent are historians limited in their explanations of the past by their own individual backgrounds and political leanings?
4. Would you agree that the subjectivity of individual interviewees fatally undermines oral history as a methodology?
5. What challenges do historians face when writing the histories of ordinary people in the medieval period and how can they overcome these?
6. Discuss the importance of non-documentary sources for the medieval historian. Please use specific examples?

**SECTION B**

Early and Medieval Period

1. Assess the impact of the Norman Conquest on Britain.
2. How justified was William the Conqueror's claim to the English throne?
3. Was King John a bad king?
4. Why did Magna Carta fail in 1215?
5. Is ‘the First English Empire’ a useful term to describe English overlordship in the British Isles from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries?
6. ‘Dreadful as the immediate impact of the Black Death was, its consequences were by no means wholly negative.’ Discuss.
7. What were the consequences of the Glyndŵr Rebellion? \*
8. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of one medieval monarch.
9. Richard Neville, the 16th Earl of Warwick, earned himself the moniker of ‘The Kingmaker’ during the Wars of the Roses. To what extent was he deserving of this title?

Early Modern Period

1. To what extent is William Shakespeare responsible for Richard III’s villainous reputation?
2. Do you consider Henry VII to have been an usurper to the throne or the rightful king?
3. ‘The question of the succession to the throne cast a shadow over the entire reign of the Tudor dynasty.’ Discuss in relation to one or more of the Tudor monarchs.
4. Did Wales experience a meaningful Renaissance in the sixteenth century?\*
5. How were the Tudors able to retain public support in Wales?\*
6. To what extent was the failure of the Spanish Armada the high point of Elizabeth I's reign?
7. Would you agree that Mary Tudor and Mary Queen of Scots provided clear examples to Elizabeth I of the potential problems facing female rulers?
8. Does the idea of Wales as ‘the nursery of the king’s infantry’ during the civil war still hold true?\*
9. Was a full ‘Restoration’ ever a real possibility in 1660?
10. Would you agree that the main feature of the Stuart period was the tension between Crown and Parliament? Discuss in relation to one or more of the Stuart monarchs.

Modern Period

1. What did the industrial revolution mean for the everyday experiences of ordinary people in Britain?
2. Assess the role of opium during the British colonial expansion in India and China.
3. Was the Poor Law Amendment Act successful?
4. Why was public health reform necessary in the nineteenth century?
5. What was the significance of ‘the Treachery of the Blue Books’?\*
6. Why is the Indian Rebellion of 1857 often seen as South Asia’s first war of independence against British rule?
7. Why did Ireland not achieve Home Rule between 1885 and 1914?
8. Why did the Liberal Party dominate Welsh politics between 1868 and 1922?\*
9. How did the role of women change in the first half of the twentieth century?
10. To what extent was there a ‘land fit for heroes’ in twentieth-century Britain?
11. Why were the effects of the inter-war depression worse in south Wales than in other parts of Britain?\*
12. To what extent did a ‘youth culture’ emerge after 1950?
13. Why did the Labour Party replace the Liberal Party as the second party in British politics during the twentieth century?
14. To what extent did ‘Thatcherism’ constitute a radical departure from any post-war consensus in British politics?