

# Edexcel GCSE

## **History A** (The Making of the Modern World) Unit 3: Modern World Source Enquiry Option 3B: War and the transformation of British society, c1931–51

Monday 17 January 2011 – Afternoon

**Sources Booklet**

Paper Reference

**5HA03/3B**

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## The Jarrow March of 1936

### Background information

Jarrow was particularly badly hit by the Depression of the 1930s. By 1935, 73% of the working population were out of work. The people of Jarrow decided to fight back and organised a march to London where they would present a petition demanding the right to work. Some historians believe the Jarrow Crusade was a great success and achieved much for the unemployed. Other historians suggest it brought little in the way of improvement.

**Source A:** From a speech by the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, to the House of Commons, 15 October 1936.

In the opinion of the government, marches such as that which started at Jarrow, can do no good to the causes for which they are undertaken. They are liable to cause unnecessary hardship to those taking part in them. Government ministers have, therefore, decided that encouragement cannot be given to marches, whatever their purpose, and ministers cannot agree to meet any representatives of the marchers from Jarrow.

**Source B:** Part of the petition carried by the Jarrow marchers to London.

During the last fifteen years, Jarrow has passed through a period of depression without parallel in the town's history. Its shipyard is closed. Its steelworks have been denied the right to re-open. Where formerly 8,000 people were employed, only 100 men are now employed on a temporary scheme. The town cannot be left rundown. Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that His Majesty's Government should realise the urgent need that work should be found without delay.

**Source C:** From an interview with Paddy Scullion in the 1950s. Scullion was a Jarrow Councillor and one of the organisers of the Jarrow March.

We were more or less crusaders for all the distressed areas of the country, not just Jarrow. There were other distressed towns as well as Jarrow. We showed poverty to the people who didn't know poverty existed and didn't know what it meant. We thought we'd show our protests to the House of Commons and demand the right to work, which is a God-given right.

**Source D:** A photograph taken near the start of the Jarrow March, 5 October 1936. Ellen Wilkinson, the MP for Jarrow, is shown towards the front of the march.



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**Source E:** From an article written by a journalist during the Jarrow March. It was published in a national newspaper which supported the march.

There can be no doubt that, as a protest, the march is a great success. I met up with the march this morning on the road to Ripon. Two hundred people were marching with banners, harmonicas and drums. The march was going strong. The marchers had with them two doctors, a barber, a group of pressmen and a Labrador dog mascot. The Mayor of Jarrow has been with the march for most of the time so far. The march is an example of community spirit probably without parallel anywhere else in the country.

**Source F:** From a history of the modern world, published in 2001.

The Jarrow marchers captured the imagination of the country. People in the prosperous south began to understand the plight of those living in the depressed areas. The men returned home as heroes. The government, however, refused to let them present the petition and the marchers failed to get work for the town. Furthermore, some marchers discovered that their 'Dole' had been stopped as they had not been available for work while on the march.

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