

Assignment brief

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria 2019-20



Sample number: One

Unit Title: History – Social and Cultural Development DB7/3/AA/03G

Overview of assessment task

Read a novel or literary chronicle depicting life during the 1930s. Write an essay discussing how the work portrays British society during a time of economic depression.

To what extent is it an accurate and useful historical source? (maximum 1500 words)

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
4. Understand the value of literature as a means of understanding society	4.1. Analyse how a given literary text reflects society at a given time

Grading Descriptors and Components 2019-20

Sample number: One

Unit title: History – Social and Cultural Development DB7/3/AA/03G

GD 2: Application of knowledge

Merit	Distinction
<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. makes use of relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facts <p>and</p> <p>c. very good levels of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accuracy • analysis 	<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. makes use of relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facts <p>and</p> <p>c. excellent levels of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. accuracy b. analysis

GD 7: Quality

Merit	Distinction
<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. is structured in a way that is generally logical and fluent</p>	<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. is structured in a way that is consistently logical and fluent</p>

Student Work 2019-20



Sample number: One

**Unit title: History – Social and Cultural Development
DB7/3/AA/03G**

The Impact of the Economical Depression on 1930's Britain.

Britain in the 1930's faced the most profound and largest Economic, Depression of the 20th century; this was due to the Wall Street crash in 1929 in America. With America demanding debts world wide and Britain being left with £100 million deficit in banks the county faced mass unemployment. There was a clear North and South divide along with an apparent divide in social classes. I will be analysing the effects of the economic depression in accordance to Walter Greenwoods love on the dole. Walter Greenwood was brought up himself in Salford which is where the novel is based. I will come to a conclusion whether the Walter Greenwood novel is a useful and accurate historical source at the end.

It is known that life in the 1930's for middle and lower class people was extremely difficult due to the economic depression. A quarter of all households lived in poverty which lead to terrible housing conditions. Families suffered in cramped, filthy, cold, dark rooms and it was common to see 5 people living in two room along with no gas or running water. 'Some women there are whose lives are dedicated to an everlasting battle with the invincible forces of soot and grime' (Greenwood. W. 2014,11) However, at the same time in the 1930's Britain did have a housing boom with 3 million. New suburban houses getting built and there was also a 1200 per cent rise in houses with electricity. One of the first initial impressions Walter Greenwood gives is that life on Hanky Park where the Novel is based wasn't pleasant due to this poverty on either side of this are other streets, mazes, jungles of tiny houses cramped and huddled together, two rooms above and two below, in some cases only one room allow and aloft' (Greenwood. W, 2014, 11) this suggests that the novel love on the dole gives an accurate opinion however, this opinion is on the negative housing conditions suffered by the working and middle class people who suffered the most during the economic depression.

The main reason for the poverty and poor living conditions was the mass unemployment which overtook Britain. 'The peak of the depression was reached in the early months of 1932, when almost three million people where out of work' (The thirties depression, 64)) the industries that suffered the most where the heavy industries such as iron, coal, steel and shipbuilding. 'These industries were already struggling because they had not been modernised after the war and had been badly affected by competition from other countries. The depression meant that now these industries crumbled (BBC, bitesize. 2017) In the novel it shows how Harry's family struggled for money and he was forced to work in a pawnbrokers before and after school at the tender age of 16. 'He would be writing tickets there from half past six this morning until school time; he would return after school and continue writing pawn-tickets until the place closed' (Greenwood. W, 2014) Harry the main fictional character always had a dream to work as an engineer this is because he saw it as a real mans job and that he would be successful 'He found himself listening to the beat of the men's feet again; an entering tune, inspiring, eloquent of the great engineering works where this army of men were employed' (Greenwood. V, 2014, 19) Harry ends up becoming an apprentice at Marlowe's which was an engineering company. After being exposed to the exploitative apprenticeship system Harry ends up getting laid off as the economic depression gets worse. Therefore, this suggests love on the dole is an accurate historical source when it comes to giving details of unemployment. It shows that in real life the heavy industries even despite having the cheap labour crumbled and most men lost their jobs.

Student Work 2019-20



Sample number: One

**Unit title: History – Social and Cultural Development
DB7/3/AA/03G**

The unemployment and poverty made family life for many people throughout Britain a struggle. 'Ragged and filthy, their feet bare, they wear grave, careworn expressions. For these children, life was nothing but hard work, empty bellies and the constant struggle for survival' (Daily mail, 2017). It wasn't just children who suffered but everyone, Annie Weaving who's family of 9 was forced to survive on 48 shillings a week had a tragic experience as she collapsed and died whilst bathing her 6 month old twins. The cause of her death was officially recorded as pneumonia however, this would not have been fatal if she had enough to eat. 'She sacrificed her life for the sake of her children'(daily mail 2017) this suggests life for the working class and unemployed was torture. Children constantly suffered from terrible infectious diseases such as pneumonia, meningitis, tuberculosis, diphtheria and polio which lead to thousand of deaths a year and meaning one in twenty children died before their first birthday. In love on the dole Harry is very use to being poor, this is demonstrated early in and throughout the novel 'it occurred to him that it would be weeks, possibly, before his mother would be able to afford him a pair of long trousers for Sunday wear. This meant sitting at home on weekends' (Greenwood. W, 2014, 44) this suggests Harry only had one set of clothing which was his school and works clothing, he was too humiliated to go out and play with his friends on the weekend. However, in the novel Harry also has a very positive experience when he won twenty two pounds on a bet. He took his girlfriend away Helen on holiday for 5 days. Their eyes were opened to how the other half live 'to live here was something incredible; it was unimaginable that people should live ordinary lives in a place where others came to holiday' (Greenwood. W, 2014, 121)this gives and accurate in sight to what family life was like in the 1930's this is because love on the dole focuses on the working class but highlights when Harry went away that there was the other way of living, the more affluent glamorous higher class way of life. Mainly in the south of England families enjoyed cinema trips, the swimming baths and sports such as football. Radios where used for entertainment along with the first ever tv's.

The government tried to fight back against the economic depression by raising the Income tax of the working people. They cut the employment pay by 10% which meant people had even less to try and survive on. One of the most hated assessments introduced by the government in November 1931 was the means test. This assessed the total household income of those claiming unemployment benefit. This heavily effected people who had been on long term unemployment. The novel accurately describes the stress the means test put on the unemployed 'aw ah' m so sick o' havin' nowt I' me pocket' ' you ain't th' only one ; said Sam Hardie' 'an' what about this means test as Larry Meath was spouting' about. Ses they're gonna knock us all of the dole' ah've filled my bloody form in anyway. By Christ if it's true wot he ses we'll be bloody well fed up then' (Greenwood. W, 2014, 174)it suggests the unemployed where already suffering and were extremely fed up before their benefits were assessed and cut accordingly. Harry had his dole stopped as it was claimed before his father and sister sally received unemployment benefit they had enough money to keep him. However, some people actually became more affluent during the depression. This is because prices fell so there was more money for Luxuries along with smaller family sizes which also left more money for luxuries. The government introduced improvements at work such as reduction in working hours and holidays with pay which saw a lot of people heading off to the seaside for family holidays.

In conclusion I believe Walter Greenwood love on the dole is to a good extent a reliable historical source. This is because he gives an accurate imagine of what life was like in the 1930s for working class and the unemployed. I know this based on the research I have conducted and majority of what he said can be backed up by facts for example the heavy

Student Work 2019-20



Sample number: One

Unit title: History – Social and Cultural Development

DB7/3/AA/03G

industries getting hit the most with unemployment. Walter Greenwood expresses how hard life was with no money and on the dole, this has rarely been exaggerated as the means test and the struggle to find work was all true. The novel does outline briefly that there was highlights such as holidays and the luxury places that the other half lived in which shows although the book is bias towards it negative dark side of the 1930's it included little bits of positivity.

Student Work 2019-20



Sample number: One

**Unit title: History – Social and Cultural Development
DB7/3/AA/03G**

Bibliography

Walter Greenwood love on the dole

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/life_20.html

<https://toughnickel.com/frugal-living/Working-Class-Life-in-the-1930s>

History today – August 2008

The thirties depression

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/britain/depressionrev_print

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2017054/Britains-Slumdogs-The-ragged-filthy-East-London-children-just-100-years-ago-living-life-grime>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1248066/in-search-Aracaida-in-Hungry-1930s-mother-starved-death-feed-children.html>