

Candidate 3 evidence

Question: To what extent did the Liberal Reforms tackle poverty effectively and lessen the problem?

Plan

- 5 1909 boards, tailoring, sweated trade,
only some trades were full in have allowed minimum wages set by board.

National insurance, 1911

- 10 Nine shillings 2: 3: 4 Government, employer, worker

This essay

1906 school meals act was compulsory, 19 11,
1908, children's charter.

- 15 Prevented them from buying alcohol. Ev: wasn't enforced enough. They became protected persons.

References

Derek Fraser, Making of Modern Britain. "Over half of education, authorities in England and Wales did not provide school meals."

- 20 Walter James Shepherd, jstory.org, "The Parliament act, which has certainly completely overshadowed and damaged all other accomplishments of Parliament for so many sessions."
(National Insurance act)

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Assignment

55 During the 1906–1914 time period Britain faced a large poverty problem. Many of its citizens complained and campaigned for a change, this made the liberal government change its ways and introduce reforms. There were many reforms introduced such as the 1906 school meals act, the national insurance act, the children’s charter and the trade boards act of 1908. This essay will discuss these factors and will argue that these reforms were not as effective as they could have been.

60 First of all, there was the free school meals act of 1906. This act was introduced after the Boer War. Due to fears for the future generations, health, it aimed to give school children, one hot, nutritious meal, a day to help improve the nation’s health. In argument what the government had set out to do, was good, because when the children received this meal, no matter what the background was it, would nurture and help them grow into big healthy workers. Overall, however, it was a different story due to it being funded by local taxpayers, the availability of free meals was limited as historian. Derek Fraser backs up by saying “over half the education, authorities in England and Wales did not provide school meals”. This suggests that in the majority of cases that this act made no difference and did not effectively tackle the problem and achieve its purpose.

70 Another form to take into consideration was how the government try to tackle the large problem in some labour industries. They made the Trade Boards act in 1908 to tackle this problem, the reform allowed the creation of board which would negotiate their minimum wages for sweated industries like tailoring. In argument, it was great that the reform addressed the issues of the low wages, and in many cases, the minimum wage was set up and enforced well. In evaluation, however the wage established by these boards was often still not enough to live on, also it’s only allowed a minimum wage for certain industries so in hindsight, it did not make that big a difference and still many workers working for very low wages, meaning this reform did not effectively achieve its purpose.

80 Another reform passed by the government was the National Insurance act of 1911, its purpose was to help workers stay out of poverty when they were sick, unemployed etc. The National insurance act gave the workers a benefit which they could use when they were in a dire state, it was funded by the worker paid for four shillings a week, then the employer, paying three shillings a week then the state paid to, making sick benefit of eight shillings. In argument, this was a revolutionary reform, and it allowed the worker access to free medical treatment and most of the time made a difference. In evaluation, however, the reform had flaws for the most part, the people it was meant to target, could not spare four shillings a week, and this put them under significant financial stress, also it only applied to the worker, so if the workers family got sick or injured. It did not cover them and they still had to shell out for shillings a week. This reform’s significance however, was noted by Walter James Shepherd “The Parliament act, which has certainly completely overshadowed and damaged all other accomplishments of Parliament for many sessions.” This suggests that, even though the reform was not full proof, compared to the other reforms, it had a large impact, so the reform did somewhat effectively tackle the problem and achieve its purpose.

95 The last reform I’m going to take into consideration, is the Children’s Charter act 1908, its purpose was to improve the lives of children as they were being neglected and did not have many laws protecting them from the dangers of society. The act prevented the children from the purchase of alcohol and cigarettes. It also put in place new laws for child offenders to help rehabilitate and better young people in Britain, the drug and alcohol laws, and forced children to be more responsible. In the evaluation, however, due to the state of living conditions and such here, many children were already too far gone, also, and effectively by police, this meant that the reform

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changed very little, the children were still irresponsible, just it was illegal, so the reform did not affectively achieve its purpose.

105 In conclusion, the reforms as a whole did not make a big enough difference to warrant being called a success. This is because laws like the children's charter did not get enforced, also, because the free school meals had to be paid for by local taxpayers. It limited its availability, another flaw was that the weekly 4 shillings off the national insurance act, sometimes kept families in a dire state as it was mandatory.

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