

Candidate 2 evidence

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16.	<p>The liberal Reforms were a series of acts passed by the liberal government between 1906-1914 to improve the social welfare of the nation. This marked as a transition point between the old attitudes of laissez-faire, where the government didn't interfere with people's lives, and started the beginning of the progression into the welfare state. The liberal social welfare reforms were effective* to a limited extent as there was numerous drawbacks in the acts passed to help the young, the old, the sick and the unemployed. * in meeting the needs of the British people</p> <p>The young were a group of people the liberal reforms aimed to help as they were too young to work. The Education Provisions Act was passed in 1906 and this gave free school meals to children who lived in extremely poor families. The Administrative Provisions Act was introduced in 1907 and this gave free medical inspections to children throughout their time in school. This was important as the meals helped children concentrate and focus better in classrooms as they were guaranteed at least one meal every school day which improved their health. However, they didn't receive this benefit during school holidays and so their health would deteriorate deteriorate back to its previous state, reducing its overall effectiveness. In evaluation, the liberal social welfare reforms helped the young to a limited extent</p>

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as the free medical inspections identified illnesses, but there was no funding for treatments to be carried out resulting in 55% of children to go untreated with their known health problems.

The old were another group the reforms aimed to help as they couldn't work due to their age. The Old Age Pension's Act was introduced in 1908 and this gave the elderly above 70 years old a weekly income that depended on their current financial situation. Married couples received 37p a week and single or widowed pensioners received 5-25p a week depending on their financial situation. They would collect this at the post office. This was important as it provided the elderly with an income to help them buy basic needs like food, keeping them out of the workhouse and from falling into poverty. However, the average life expectancy for the worker during this time was between 40-50 so many died before being able to receive this benefit which reduces the overall effectiveness. In evaluation, the liberal social reforms helped the old to a limited extent as the pension given was discovered to be below the poverty line - the minimum amount of income to not be in poverty - after a study by Rowntree discovered that they were slightly under the poverty line, so it didn't help many old people escape from poverty.

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The sick were another group the liberal reforms aimed to help as they couldn't work due to illness. The National Insurance Act (Part 1) was introduced in 1911 and provided those absent from work with an income. This benefit would last 26 weeks, with 10 shillings being given every week for the first 13 weeks, and 5 shillings given every week for the last 13 weeks. This was important as those who were ill didn't fall into poverty straight away after being absent from work and the funds provided helped them afford the required basics like food. However, the benefit was only short-term as it lasted 26 weeks and so those with ~~long-term~~ long-term illnesses weren't provided for after the 26 weeks passed which reduce its overall effectiveness. In evaluation, the liberal social welfare reforms helped the sick to a limited extent as it only provided benefits for the worker, so any other family members who were sick were not covered for which greatly reduces its ~~assistance~~ effect on the British people.

The unemployed were another group the liberal reforms aimed to help as they didn't have a job, so could not work. The National Insurance Act (Part 2) was introduced in 1911 and this provided the unemployed with benefits when they lost their job. Both the employer and employee paid 2.5p per week for this benefit and the state contributed 3p per week to cover the

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unemployed worker. Labour exchanges also opened and this was a place where workers and employers could register their needs and requirements. This was important as the labour exchanges made it easier for people to find jobs quicker as vacancies could be promoted there, meaning they would spend less time out a job and so would receive a good income. However, not all employers registered their vacancies or needs and so sometimes it was challenging for many workers to find a job - the act didn't enforce employers to register their needs - which reduces the overall effectiveness. In evaluation, the liberal social ~~reform~~ reforms helped the unemployed to a limited extent as it only covered workers in certain industries at threat of 'seasonal unemployment' such as shipbuilding and mechanics so most workers didn't receive any benefit.

In conclusion, the liberal social reforms were effective in meeting the needs of the British people to a limited extent. On the one hand, the money provided to the old, the sick and the unemployed did assist them in buying basic needs. The young also benefitted from the medical inspections which identified health issues. On the other hand however, the benefits given to the old, the sick and the unemployed was an amount below the poverty and so the money didn't help them escape poverty, it only helped them from falling further into it.

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	<p>The young weren't given critical funding for the treatment of their problems either. Overall, the liberal social reforms were effective in meeting the needs of the British people to a limited extent as there was too many drawbacks to each act and the liberal reforms failed to try improve the housing problems too, which was a major issue.</p>	