

Year 11 in to Year 12 Summer Work

Churchill

Study the four sources then answer Question 1.

1. Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Churchill was a political maverick.

[30]

Source A: Historical fiction focusing on Churchill's personality

'Many people thought he was unreliable; he had, after all changed his political party twice. His working habits were idiosyncratic; he rose late, often wrote letters from his bed and after dinner would work late into the night. Delegation was not Churchill's strong point; he would ask questions, requiring detailed answers and briefings over the most trivial of matters. He was often inclined to consult friends for advice of government matters.'

Jocelyn Hunt, Winston Churchill The Great War Leader?; 2003.

Source B: Labour Leader Ramsay MacDonald, October 1920

'Churchill pursues his mad adventure as though he were Emperor of these Isles, delighting his militarists and capitalists with a campaign. We have been told one day that we are withdrawing our troops from Russia, and the next we read of new offensives, new bogus governments, new military chiefs as allies.'

Socialist Review, quoted by R. Rhodes James

Source C: From the *New Statesman* a political magazine.

'The Prime Minister proposed to go ahead with negotiations and avert the Strike, he was faced with the immediate resignation of his colleagues – Churchill, Neville Chamberlain, Bridgeman, Amery, Joynson-Hicks and Cunliffe-Lister. So he gave way...Mr Churchill was the villain of the piece. He is reported to have remarked that he thought "a little blood-letting" would be all to the good. We do not know whether there is anyone left who still honestly believed that the Strike was a "revolutionary" attempt to subvert the British Constitution. It was a strike in furtherance of a trade dispute and nothing more. Ought we to thank Mr Churchill or ought we to hang him on a lamp-post? It would be best that he should be hanged.'

New Statesman, 22 May 1926

Source D: Churchill discussing the gold standard in 1925

'These matters are very technical, and, of course, I have to be very guarded in every word that I use in regard to them. I have only one observation to make on the merits. In our policy of returning to the gold standard we do not move alone. Indeed, I think we could not have afforded to remain stationary while so many others moved. The two greatest manufacturing countries in the world on either side of us, the United States and Germany, are in different ways either on or related to an international gold exchange.'

Budget Speech to the House of Commons, April 18th, 1925