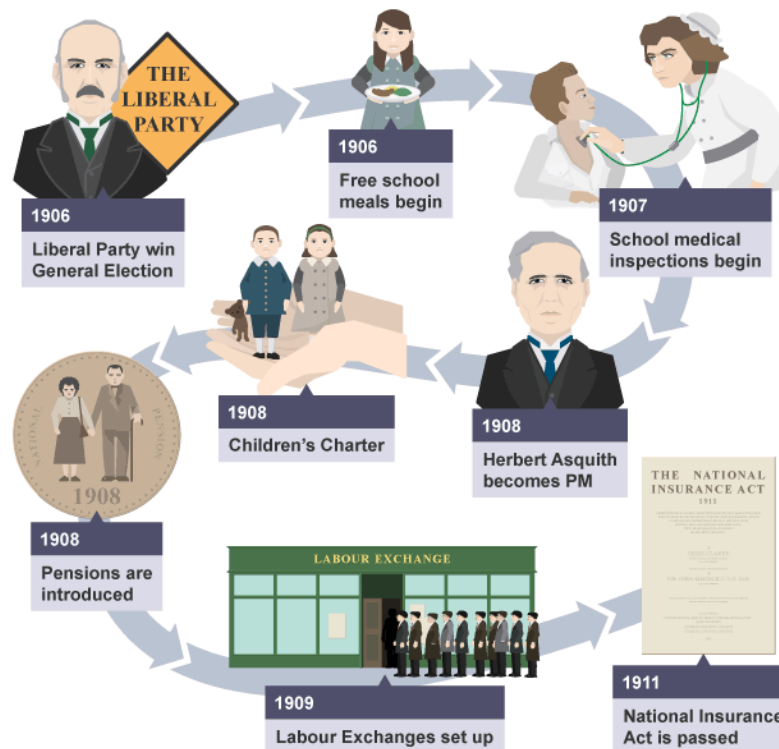


# The Liberal Social Reforms

L/O: Why did the government begin to improve public health in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?



# Background: The Boer War

- ▶ Fought between Britain and empire against Boers (South Africans)
- ▶ Lasted 2 years and 8 months
- ▶ British wanted to unify South Africa under Imperial British rule
- ▶ South Africans wanted independence.



- ▶ Create a spider diagram in your book and outline the 3 reasons the government took action

Page 76–77

## Concerns about foreign competition

- The government was worried that unhealthy workers could lead to the decline of the country as an industrial power
- Germany had a good system of state welfare
- Germany was beginning to produce as much coal, iron and steel as Britain

Why did the government begin to improve public health in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

The Boer War

Use the questions on the next slide to help make notes if you are stuck

Work of Booth & Rowntree

Changing attitudes

# Why did the government begin to improve public health in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

## The Boer War

1. When was this war fought?
2. What were people shocked to discover?
3. What did the government set up?
4. What did its report say?

## Booth and Rowntree

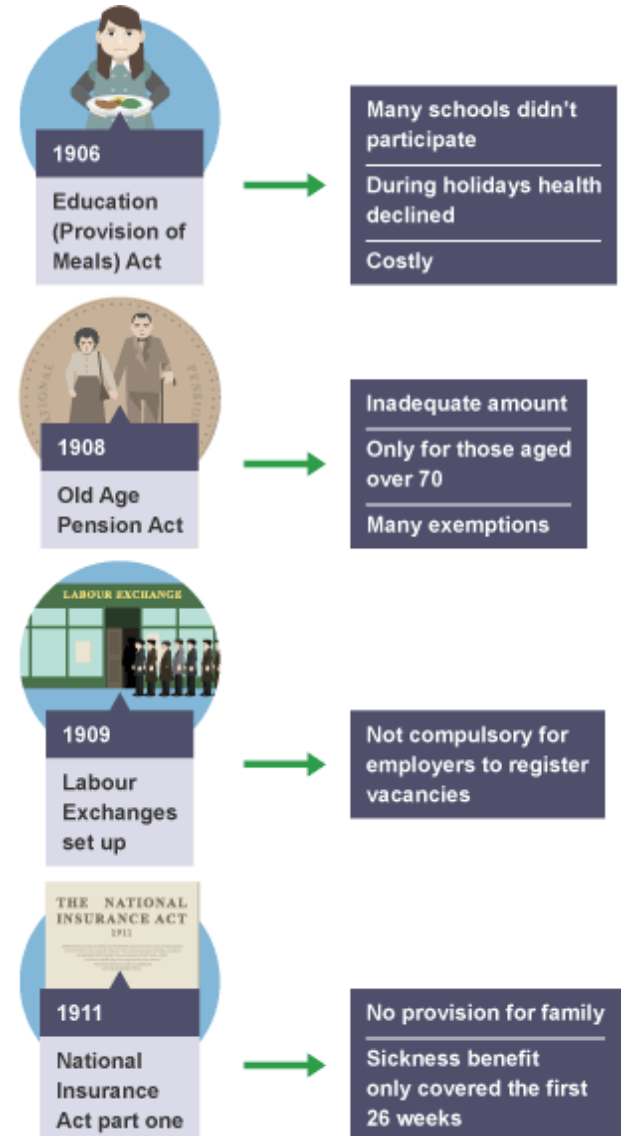
1. Where did Charles Booth carry out his investigation?
2. What did he find?
3. Where did Rowntree carry out his investigation?
4. What did he find?
5. Why did these findings worry businessmen and factory owners?

## Changing attitudes

1. What was beginning to change?
2. What were some MPs beginning to suggest?
3. Why were they so concerned?  
(three reasons | )
4. Which do you think was the most important reason?

# What improvements were made?

- ▶ Fill in the spaces on the Liberal reforms sheet as you watch the video
- ▶ Write down the positives and negatives of the legislation
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abpbFtVB3xU>



## What happened next?

- Over the next 30 years governments continued to take steps to improve the welfare of the people
- The building of overcrowded back to back housing was banned
- In 1918 local councils had to provide health visitors and clinics for pregnant women
- In 1919 councils began building houses for poor families and in 1930 a slum clearance programme started

**Infant mortality fell from 163 per 1000 in 1900 to 55 per 1000 by 1940**

# Explain the significance of the Liberal social reforms for the health of the nation (8 marks)

- ▶ Significance at the time (short term):
- ▶ For child health
- ▶ For adult health
- ▶ Recognition of responsibility

- ▶ Significance later (long term):
- ▶ For children today
- ▶ For people today – NHS / Welfare state
- ▶ Life expectancy (currently 83 for women and 79 for men)

Have a go at answering the exam question and email your teacher the answer so you can get some feedback

# How did WW2 contribute to improving the health of the people?

∞ Cut out/copy the table on the next slide

∞ Match the title to the description:

- Attitudes
- Diet
- Poverty
- Preventing disease





In order to keep people fighting fit posters encouraged them to keep people healthy. They warned against poor food hygiene for example. The government began a national immunization programme against diphtheria after an epidemic in 1940

Shortages of food during the war led to rationing and price control. By the end of the war the poor people of Britain had never been so healthy. There was less food but rationing meant it was shared out fairly and everyone had a balanced diet. Campaigns encouraging people to grow their own vegetables helped to improve health.

During the war 1 million children were evacuated from the cities to the countryside. Their health improved as the countryside was cleaner less crowded. Many of the children came from the poorest areas and their arrival highlighted the levels of poverty and deprivation in which they were living. People were shocked and the government was forced to make commitments to improving things after the war

The death and destruction caused by WW2 had a profound effect on people's attitudes. Thousands of servicemen fighting on the front line were killed or wounded, millions of civilians suffered from bombing raids and shortages. Everyone had to make sacrifices and there was an expectation that this should lead to a better future.

# Creating the Welfare State



- ▶ The Welfare State: the system by which the government helps those in need
- ▶ The vulnerable members of society: the old, the sick, children, the unemployed

- Answer the questions
- Match the words to the meanings

**Squalor**

**vulnerable**

**workhouses**

**idleness**

**ignorance**

**want**

# Creating the Welfare State

- ▶ The Prime Minister of the new Labour Government was Clement Atlee
- ▶ The government began to create the welfare state:
  - 1) The NHS was set up in 1948 to provide free health care for everyone
  - 2) A family allowance was introduced to help families with children
  - 3) The very poor received help or benefits
  - 4) The school leaving age was raised to 15 and there were more university places
  - 5) Poor quality slum houses were demolished and new council homes were built

Copy into your book

What was more important in bringing about change to help the British people:

- War
- The Government

Write a paragraph explaining your opinion