

For: • Limited state role
↳ privatisation of most industries.

SECTION C

Against: • Socially nothing changed
↳ divorce, abortions

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 5 Historians have different views about the impact on Britain of Thatcher's governments in the years 1979-97. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

↳ air crime increased
↳ accepted everyone as British - not allowed to celebrate culture.

How far do you agree with the view that, in the years 1979-97, the Thatcher governments transformed Britain?

9 MARKS

(20)

In the years 1979-97, Thatcher's government completely changed what previous governments had done and began promoting a new Britain. Even though Thatcher did transform Britain in terms of how she ran the country and how future parties functioned, not much had been transformed socially. In this essay I will be using both extracts as well as my own knowledge to create a balanced argument.

In terms of social change, not much happened that could be seen as positive ^{according to extract 2}. Instead, 'divorce, abortion and teenage pregnancy' had become extremely common and more socially acceptable by 1990. This completely goes against Thatcher's strong beliefs in marriage, ~~the~~ ^{the} traditional family. As well as that, Thatcher was against feminism and anything to do with protest. A huge part of the feminist movement was acceptance of abortions and divorce which was becoming a reality. As well



(Section C continued)

as that crime increased 'by an average of 5-7% each year'. This demonstrates Thatcher's and her government's inability to transform Britain. Thatcher also promoted the idea of British culture and being proud to be British. This meant that everyone who was not natively British was accepted as long as they didn't promote their culture and identified as being British. This shows how Thatcher governments were unable to transform Britain in terms of ^{positive} social change. Extract two is not completely reliable as it was published in 2012. Therefore, it's not primary evidence meaning it's not as useful as ~~some~~ a source from someone experiencing a Thatcher government.

On the other hand, Thatcher governments did transform Britain. Through her strong policies, such as the privatisation of most industries, she was able to re-shape British politics and influenced parties on both the right and the left. According to the extract one, John Major 'pushed both major parties back to the pragmatic centre ground of British politics'. This shows that Thatcher governments were able to transform ~~certain~~ British politics and make parties re-think their policies. Extract one is also quite reliable as it was written in 1995 which was during a period



(Section C continued) experiencing a Thatcher inspired government. Therefore, even though the author could be bias it's a good insight into what Thatcher govern governments were like.

~~Thatcher~~ Thatcher governments were ^{not} able to transform Britain through their policies. Thatcher rejected 'Keynsism' and instead promoted privatisation and less state intervention. ~~As~~ Even though this was what she promoted, what actually happened was an increase in state intervention. Thatcher wanted less intervention in the welfare state but she actually ended up putting a lot of money into it. This shows how Thatcher governments were unable to transform Britain as what they wanted to achieve never happened due to state intervention being necessary.

However, Thatcher did transform Britain. Before Thatcher, Labour govern governments were ruled by the unions. They would often threaten to go on strike if the government didn't do as they asked. When Thatcher became Prime Minister, one of her main opinions that made her so popular was to weaken and get rid of the unions. She closed down most mines and was fully prepared



(Section C continued) for strikes, meaning they didn't damage the economy. This shows how Thatcher governments were able to transform Britain as she was able to ~~dimish~~ diminish the unions influence over the government.

In conclusion, I both agree and disagree with Thatcher governments transforming Britain between 1979-97. I agree as she completely changed how the government and Britain was ran as well as the Major's government being able to realign the parties. However, I disagree as she was never able to carry out her main idea of minimum state intervention. As well as that, Thatcher didn't transform Britain at all in terms of social change. Therefore, Thatcher governments were able to transform Britain politically but not so much socially.

