

Paper Reference(s) 1HIA/10
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

**PAPER 1: Thematic study and
historic environment**

**OPTION 10: Crime and punishment in Britain,
c1000–present AND Whitechapel,
c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the
inner city**

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Sources Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET
WITH THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Sources for use with Section A.

SOURCE A: From *The People of the Abyss* by Jack London, 1903. Jack London was an American writer who spent time living among the poor in Whitechapel. Homeless poor people could stay overnight in a workhouse casual ward in return for completing work. Here Jack London is describing a conversation about a casual ward.

I was told that after a cold bath, I would be given bread and skilly. Skilly is made from oatmeal stirred into hot water. Then I would be sent directly to bed. I would get up at half past five in the morning and breakfast would be the same meal – bread and skilly.

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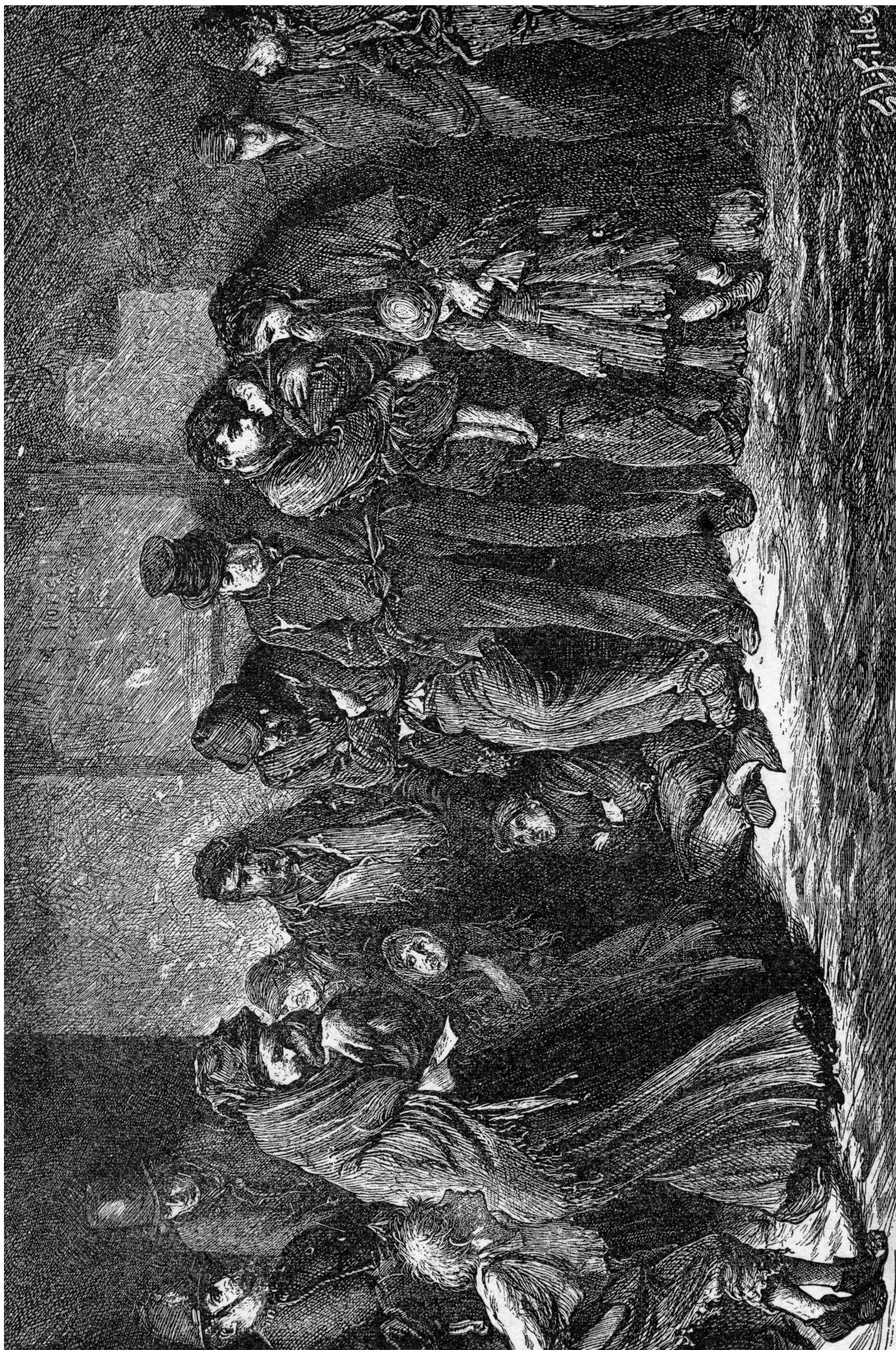
Then I would have to do my work. I would be locked up in a cell to pick oakum*, or to clean and scrub, or to break stones. My friend said, ‘I don’t have to break stones; I’m old, you see. But they’ll make you do it because you’re young and strong.’

‘Then comes dinner,’ he went on. ‘Bread, cheese, and cold water. Then you finish your work, eat the same as before, and then bed. At six o’clock next morning you’re let out, provided you’ve finished your work.’

*** pick oakum – picking out tar from old ropes**

SOURCE B: A drawing by Samuel Luke Fildes, published in a weekly London newspaper, 1869. The drawing was titled *Houseless and Hungry* and it illustrated an article about workhouses. It shows men, women, and children queuing to be admitted to a workhouse.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source A taken from: The People of the Abyss by Jack London © The People Press

Source B taken from: © Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images