1. **The Affluent Society**

**Practice essay question with Sources**

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining Britain’s failure to join the European Common Market?

**Source A**

*Source: Earl of Kilmuir (Home Secretary 1951-54 and Lord Chancellor 1954-62)* ***Adventure****. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson; 1964.p.188*

The breakdown of the Brussels negotiations early in 1963, which occurred after I had left the Government, had its roots in 1951-52. Had we taken our proper part in those years in associating ourselves warmly with European Union, our economic and political authority in the free world would have been enormously increased and also, I believe, the benefits would not have been confined to one side. The humiliation of Brussels in 1963 was, in modern parlance, the ‘pay-off’ for our faint heartedness and apparent duplicity in 1951-52. European unity never meant abandonment of the Commonwealth, but the hesitation and pusillanimity shown by both major parties in the ‘fifties gave the opportunity for the shrill xenophobia of the Beaverbrook press and others to arouse fears and anxieties which were groundless.

**Source B**

*Source: Sir Anthony Eden.* ***Full Circle.*** *London. Cassell & Co; 1960.p.32*

I had no quarrel with the conception of a European Defence Community…I liked the idea, for I have never thought that my country need have any apprehension on account of a closer union between the nations of continental Europe. We have suffered too much from the lack of it, and the trends these days should be towards larger units. My reservation rose from other causes…it seemed to attempt too much, to ask more of the nations concerned that they should freely give and then the outcome might be disillusion leaving Europe in disarray. On the other hand, I was prepared to admit that I could be wrong in this judgement, which might be the result of our English preference for taking our changes in doses rather than at a gulp.