**3. The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970-1979**

**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 why Labour won the October 1974 general election?

**Source A**

*Source:* ***Britain Will Win with Labour****, October 1974 Labour Party Manifesto*

[Following the February 1974 election] we have found ourselves faced in Parliament by a majority which could, and did, coalesce to frustrate the policies we had put before the nation…

We have shown that as a Government we are prepared to take the decisions that are needed to achieve economic and social justice without which this country can never unite.

The policies we have followed over the past six months, the policies which the next Labour Government will follow, are policies to strengthen the Social Contract.

It is not simply, or narrowly, an understanding about wages. It is about justice, equality, about concern for and protection of the lower paid, the needy, the pensioner and the handicapped in our society…

**Source B**

*Source:* ***Putting Britain First****, October 1974 Conservative Party General Election Manifesto*

Over recent months, prices have been rising at an annual rate of over 20 per cent, and on present policies they will rise as much next year…Unemployment is rising rapidly, and the deficit in our balance of payments this year will be £4,000 million. By the end of the 1970s on present forecasts, we are likely to owe £15,000 million for oil alone…

If we do not solve our economic problems, our political difficulties will be made worse. And if we do not tackle our political problems, our economic problems will be insoluble.

Our main aim therefore is to safeguard the existence of our free society.