**4. The impact of Thatcherism, 1979-1987**

**Practice essay question with sources**

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to a historian studying the 1983 British general election.

**Source A**

*Source: Neil Kinnock, speech in Bridgend, Glamorgan, on Tuesday 7 June 1983*

If Margaret Thatcher is re-elected as Prime Minister on Thursday, I warn you. I warn you that you will have pain – when healing and relief depend upon payment. I warn you that you will have ignorance – when talents ar untended and wits are wasted, when learning is a privilege and not a right. I warn you that you will have poverty – when pensions slip and benefits are whittled away by a government that won’t pay in an economy that can’t pay. I warn you that you will be cold – when fuel charges are used as a tax system that the rich don’t notice and the poor can’t afford.

I warn you that you must not expect work – when many cannot spend, more will not be able to earn…I warn you that you will have defence of a sort – with a risk and at a price that passes all understanding.

**Source B**

*Source: Margaret Thatcher, speech in Harrowgate, Yorkshire, on 26 May 1983*

Labour’s leaders are brave enough in the battle of words. Yet when it comes to the real battle for economic survival and lasting prosperity, they have no stomach for the fight.

Once again, their Manifesto confirms that in the end Labour always runs away. They are at it again in this Election; in full flight as fast as their legs will carry them. – They are running away from the need to defend their country. – They are fleeing from the long overdue reform of the trade unions. – They are running out on Europe. – And they are running scared that you might read and understand their Manifesto.

Above all, Labour is running away from the true challenge of unemployment. Its glib promise to create millions of new jobs – or rather, old jobs, or non-jobs – is no more than an evasion of the real problem that has long confronted us all.

**Source C**

*Source: Liberal-SDP Alliance 1983 British General Election Manifesto*

The Labour Party has not become more moderate…The policies of nationalism, attacks on private enterprise, withdrawal from Europe, with its devastating effect upon our exports and investment prospects, and alienation of our international friends and allies, are all enthroned and inviolate. Jobs and national safety would be at risk.

Mrs Thatcher offers no alternative of hope or of long-term stability. Some of her objectives were good. Britain needed a shake-up: lower inflation, more competitive industry and a prospect of industrial growth to catch back the ground we had lost over the years. But the Government has not succeeded. After a bad start it has got lower inflation, but the prospects even for the end of this year are not good. And the price has been appalling. British industry has seen record bankruptcies and liquidations. Unemployment has increased on twice the scale of the world recession.