

**1) Using these four sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the interpretation that the social reforms of the Liberals of 1906 – 14 attracted more opposition than support. (30)**

**Source A**

**The author lived as a boy in a poor working class area of Salford, near Manchester, before the First World War. Here he comments on the views on old age pensions held at time.**

The small sums involved meant life itself for many elderly poor. Old folk, my mother said, spending their allowance at the shop. 'would bless the name of Lloyd George as if he were a saint'. The government met with much opposition to the introduction of a pension scheme from both middle and working classes. Free gifts of money, many argued, would dishearten the thrifty who saved for their old age, and encourage laziness. Lord Rosebery thought old age pensions 'might deal a blow at the Empire which could be almost mortal'.

**R Roberts, *The Classic Slum*, 1973**

**Source B**

**A letter from a member of the public comments on the introduction of old age pensions**

However the ministers may try to hide it, we are faced by a universal outdoor relief scheme, without any of the restraining provisions of the present Poor Law. The strength of the kingdom has been its great wealth, and the sturdy independent character of its people. The measure being pushed through the Commons will destroy both. It will take away wealth by unjust taxation. It will sap the character of the people by teaching them not to rely on themselves, but on the state.

**From a letter by C.H. Crossthwaite to *The Times*, July 1908**

**Source C**

**Keir Hardie, who founded the Independent Labour Party, expresses his views on the recent social reforms in a House of Commons debate on a motion for an investigation into the causes of industrial unrest**

Pensions have been given to the aged at least, but the need for pensions is due to low wages which the workers have to endure until they are seventy. Insurance! Attached to it are irritating conditions and a burdensome payment which a small addition to income or land tax would have covered. Every improvement in the condition of the worker is made a fresh excuse by the capitalist class for enriching themselves. The recent Minimum Wages Act for miners increased the cost of getting coal by 3d. [1p] per ton and as a result there is to be a permanent increase of 2s.6d [12p] per ton in the price charged to the consumer!

**Keir Hardie, speech 8 May 1912**

**Source D**

**At a public meeting at Kennington, London, the Chancellor of the Exchequer offers a vigorous defence of the social reforms of the Liberal Government.**

*Lloyd George*: When the head of the family cannot work, his children are at the mercy of the wolves of hunger. The Insurance Act comes into operation that abolishes that state of things for ever – a protection between the people and the poverty that sickness and unemployment arises from. Another source of protection was Old Age Pensions and between them they will help millions from stumbling into wretchedness. The Tory Press regard the Insurance Bill as an act of tyranny and think it will lose us elections.

*A voice*: It will win many more.

*Lloyd George*: I agree with my friend; we live on higher ground and can see further ahead.

**David Lloyd George, speech, 1912**

## **Essay section**

**“Lloyd George’s fall from power in 1922 was the result of the Chanak Crisis.” How far do you agree?**

**(20 marks)**