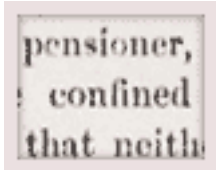


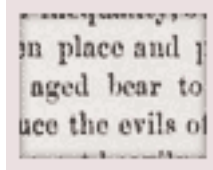
SOURCE 5

Secret discussion document on Old Age Pensions produced for the government in April 1908

(PRO ref: CAB 97/92/54)



SOURCE 5A



SOURCE 5B

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Why does the document suggest that contributory schemes are not the right answer to the issue of old age pensions?
- Why would contributory schemes not work in practice?
- Why is the scheme funded by the Treasury rather than by local authorities?

SOURCE 5A

1. All “contributory” schemes are ruled out.

If the contribution which is to be the condition of a pension is left to the option of the would-be pensioner, the assistance of the State would be confined to a comparatively small class, and that neither the most necessitous nor in all cases the most deserving. If, on the other hand, the contribution were made compulsory, there is no practicable machinery by which, in a country such as this (whatever may be the case in Germany), it could be worked in face of the

SOURCE 5B

2. The obligation to provide the pension must, as between the State and the pensioner, rest on the Treasury, and not on any local authority.

The objections to any other course are insuperable. It is sufficient for the purpose to point out that to make the charge a local burden would (*a*) lead to every kind of inequality, owing to the large differences between place and place in the proportion which the aged bear to the whole population, (*b*) reintroduce the evils of the old Law of Settlement, (*c*) bear most heavily upon the most necessitous districts.