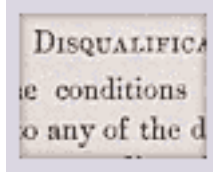


SOURCE 1

Extract from a government document explaining how people qualified for Old Age Pensions
(PRO ref: AST 15/2)



SOURCE 1A

SOURCE 1B

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:

- What kind of people qualified for the pension?
- The weekly pension for a single person was 5 shillings. Does this seem like a lot?
- What do you think of the age limit?
- Does it surprise you that most pensioners who qualified were delighted with the pensions?
- Do you think the restrictions on people receiving pensions were fair?

THE OLD AGE PENSIONS ACT, 1908.

MEMORANDUM

For the Information of Persons desiring to make Claims
for Pensions.

1. Under this Act Old Age Pensions may be claimed both by men and women, whether married or single, and this Memorandum must be read as applying to women as well as men. To be eligible for a pension a person must comply with the following conditions :--

CONDITIONS.

(1) He must have attained the age of 70. He should be in a position to produce evidence of his age when called upon. The best evidence would probably be a certificate of birth.*

(2) The claimant will have to satisfy the pension authorities that for at least 20 years previously he has been a British subject, and has resided in England, Scotland, or Ireland.

(3) The claimant must satisfy the pension authorities that his yearly means as calculated under the Act do not exceed £31 10s.

SOURCE 1B

DISQUALIFICATIONS.

2. Besides satisfying the conditions mentioned above, a claimant for a pension must not be subject to any of the disqualifications laid down by the Act. The following classes of persons are disqualified :—

(1) Persons who are in receipt of poor relief or who have received poor relief at any time since the 1st of January, 1908.

(2) Persons who have habitually failed to work according to their ability, opportunity, and need, for the maintenance or benefit of themselves, and those legally dependent upon them.

(3) Persons who are detained in lunatic asylums, or are maintained in any place as pauper or criminal lunatics.

(4) Persons who have within the preceding 10 years been convicted of an offence and ordered to be imprisoned

(5) Persons over 60 who have been ordered to be detained under the Inebriates Act, 1898, and who are disqualified by the court which makes the detention order.