

Dominoes: Liberal reforms and the early Labour party

- Cut out the domino cards and distribute to students randomly around the class. Any spare cards should be given to students who can cope with more than one, or kept by the teacher.
- Explain to students that each domino contains the second half of one sentence and the beginning of another. When they hear the beginning of a sentence read out which they think their card completes, they should shout it out. If they are correct, they then read out the second half of their card.
- The student with the 'start' card begins the chain. If the chain 'breaks down' because a sentence has not been completed, the class should discuss what the answer might be so that the student can recognise their answer.
- The game ends when all dominoes have been read out – this should be when the final student reads out 'end'.
- The sequence could then be read through again, this time against the clock!



START	In the 19 th century governments did not do much to help the poor. This policy was known as	'laissez-faire'.	However, the Liberal government which took power in 1905, wanted to solve the problem of
poverty.	Their first reforms were known as the	Childrens' Charter.	This charter gave children
free school meals, free medical inspections and protection in the law.	Next Lloyd George passed the	Old Age Pensions Act in 1908.	This gave 5 shillings a week to most people who were aged
over 70.	To help the unemployed find jobs, the Liberals introduced	Labour Exchanges. They also passed laws to improve conditions for some workers.	The National Insurance Act of 1911 brought in

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health and unemployment insurance.	NI was funded by	contributions from workers, employers and the government.	Pensions were non-contributory. To help pay for them Lloyd George proposed the
Peoples' Budget.	The principle of the budget was to	tax the rich in order to redistribute the wealth.	Given fears that war was approaching, the budget also helped to pay for
Dreadnoughts.	The Peoples' Budget was originally rejected by the	House of Lords.	The Lords were forced to accept the budget after a new
general election.	Following their rejection of the budget, the Parliament Act of 1911 was passed to	reduce the power of the unelected House of Lords.	The Parliament Act also brought in payment for
MPs.	This helped the Labour Party, which was growing now that working men could	vote.	Women did not get the vote until 1918, after they had called off the suffragette campaign to help win the
war.	Women did not get the vote on the same terms as men until	1928.	The early Labour Party was called the

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ILP.	The ILP raised funds through the	LRC.	In 1906 the LRC got two Labour MPs elected. Their names were
Keir Hardie and Richard Bell.	In the early 20 th century, many working people turned to politics as the	trade unions lost power.	The Labour Party was also helped by
the split in the Liberal Party after World War One.	The Liberals also failed to provide the promised	'homes fit for heroes' after the war.	The Labour Party first took power in the year
1923.	The first Labour Prime Minister was	Ramsay MacDonald.	MacDonald's government fell in 1924, but took power again in
1929.	The early Labour Party believed in	socialism.	It criticised the Liberal welfare reforms because
they did not do enough for the workers, and did nothing to create jobs.	The Labour Government of 1929 fell in 1931 because of the	Depression.	END