

THE LIBERAL REFORMS, 1906-1914

Teacher And so, class, welcome to the final of our 'Fact-Tennis' championships – and it's a doubles match between Anne and Ben, on the BBC Bitesize revision bites on 'The Liberal Reforms, 1906-1914'.
Rowntree had found in 1901 that 28% of the population of York lived below the poverty line, so the Liberal government introduced reforms to help three groups of people:

So – first group, first game – on **CHILDREN**. Anne to serve:

Anne 1906 - free school meals.
Ben But not compulsory - some councils didn't do them
Anne By 1914, 150,000 children got free meals.
Ben 1907 - school medical inspections.
Anne 1908 - Children and Young Persons Act
Ben ... called the Children's Charter
Anne It punished people who neglected their children
Ben ... or treated them cruelly.
Anne It set up special courts for children
Teacher Net cord! Proper name please
Anne [impatiently] ... 'Juvenile' Courts
Teacher Play on.
Ben ... and Borstals – children didn't go to adults' prisons.
Anne You couldn't send children out begging.
Ben Children weren't allowed to smoke.
Anne Wrong! It didn't say that – it said it was illegal to **SELL** cigarettes to children.
Teacher Absolutely correct – **BALL OUT!** First rally to the girls!!
Anne leads, one-love.

So, second match, second group: **OLD AGE**. Anne to serve:

Anne 1908 – pensions.
Ben ... for the over 70s
Anne 5s a week for a single person.
Ben 7s 6d for married couples.
Anne Not for people who had never worked.
Ben Not for people who had an income.
Teacher Net Cord! More needed: 'had an income' higher than what?
Ben £21.
Teacher Correct – over the net and play on!!!
Anne Pensions kept old people out of the workhouse.
Ben Old people cried when they collected them.
Anne Lloyd George became loved; old people said: 'God bless Lord George'.
Ben 'Out!' – isn't that just a repeat of the 'people cried' point?
Teacher No – different enough – play on:
Ben [now trying to think of a point] ... er ... Ah! ... Lloyd George made the 1909 Budget to pay for them.
Anne 'That's out!' – the Budget was to pay for **ALL** the reforms – not just pensions.
Teacher No – I'll allow it – pensions needed to be paid for too.
Anne ... in that case: The 1909 budget raised income tax.
Ben ... from 1s to 1s 2d.

Anne It put duties on tobacco and spirits.
 Ben 'Out!' – it *raised* duties on tobacco and spirits.
 Teacher No. I'll allow it – just! – play on:
 Ben When the House of Lords refused to pass Lloyd George's budget, the Commons passed the 1911 Parliament Act.
 Teacher Net Cord! Have to press you – what did it say?
 Ben ... the House of Lords couldn't reject a bill if it had been passed three times in the Commons.
 Teacher Spot on! Play on:
 Anne [Getting desperate] er... Lloyd George called it his 'War Budget'.
 Ben [Getting desperate] Lloyd George called it that because he was waging war on poverty.
 Anne That's just what Anne said!!
 Teacher No – I'll allow it – play on:
 Anne [Huffy] Well in that case I've run out – that's me finished.
 Teacher OUT! – Ben wins! One game all.

So now, the deciding match: **WORKERS!** So it's best of three, Ben to serve.

Ben 1906 - Trades Disputes Act ...
 Anne ... said that unions didn't have to pay losses caused by a strike.
 Ben 1906 – Workers Compensation Act ...
 Anne ...gave compensation if you were hurt at work.
 Ben 1908 - eight-hour day for miners.
 Anne 1909 - labour exchanges
 Ben Labour exchanges had found a million people jobs by 1914.
 Anne ... but the new jobs were only temporary or part-time
 Ben 1910 - shop workers got half-a-day's holiday a week.
 Anne Merchant Shipping Act – better conditions for sailors.
 Ben 1911 - National Insurance Act.
 Anne Workers paid four old pennies a week.
 Ben ... and got free medical treatment.
 Teacher Net cord – which part of the Act said that, first or second?
 Ben Part One.
 Teacher Ball in! Play on.
 Anne It only gave free doctors for the workers – they still had to pay for their families.
 Ben It gave sick pay of 10s a week
 Anne for 26 weeks
 Ben Part 2 of the National Insurance Act gave dole money
 Anne the worker paid two and a half old pennies a week.
 Ben ... and they got 7s 6d a week for 15 weeks.
 Anne 7s 6d was not enough to live on - a family of five needed £1 a week.
 Teacher Brilliant shot!
 Ben [suddenly drying up]... er ... er Aaarrggghhh! No! Yes! Lloyd George became hated – 'Taffy was a Welshman, taffy was a thief!'
 Anne ... er ... er Aaarrggghhh! No – I'm done!
 Teacher MISSED BALL! Good gracious – Ben WINS, two games to one!!!! [applause]
 Brilliant learning, you two. If only everyone else would learn the facts as well as you did!