

Questions 2 a), 2 b) How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the standard of housing for the people of Whitechapel during this time?

Source A



Questions 2 a), 2 b)

Source B

Extract from the Peabody Group's website detailing the history of the Peabody Estate in Whitechapel.

The Whitechapel estate in east London was the first of ten estates which Peabody built as part of London's earliest slum clearance programme. In 1875 the Metropolitan Board of Works was given compulsory purchase powers by Parliament. It looked for organisations which could replace the slums with model dwellings, and Peabody was among those chosen. Old maps show that the site of the estate had previously been a maze of narrow courtyards filled with cramped and unhealthy houses. Peabody's architect, Henry Darbishire, designed eleven blocks to be built on the cleared land. The estate opened in 1881 and provided 286 flats. Within months it was visited by members of a Select Committee on Housing, who wanted to see the results of the 1875 legislation. Weekly rents started at three shillings (15p) for a one room flat and went up to six shillings (30p) for three rooms.

Questions 2 a), 2 b)

Source A

An extract from Margaret Harkness' novel "In Darkest London", which drew upon her work as a social researcher. Harkness rented a room in Whitechapel to observe slum life closely.

The Whitechapel Union is a model workhouse; that is to say, it is the Poor Law incarnate in stone and brick. The men are not allowed to smoke in it, not even when they are in their dotage; the young women never taste tea, and the old ones may not indulge in a cup during the long afternoons, only at half-past six o'clock morning and night, when they receive a small hunch of bread with butter scraped over the surface, and a mug of that beverage which is so dear to their hearts as well as their stomachs. The young people never go out, never see a visitor, and the old ones only get one holiday in the month. A little gruel morning and night, meat twice a week, that is the food of the grown-up people, seasoned with hard work and prison discipline.

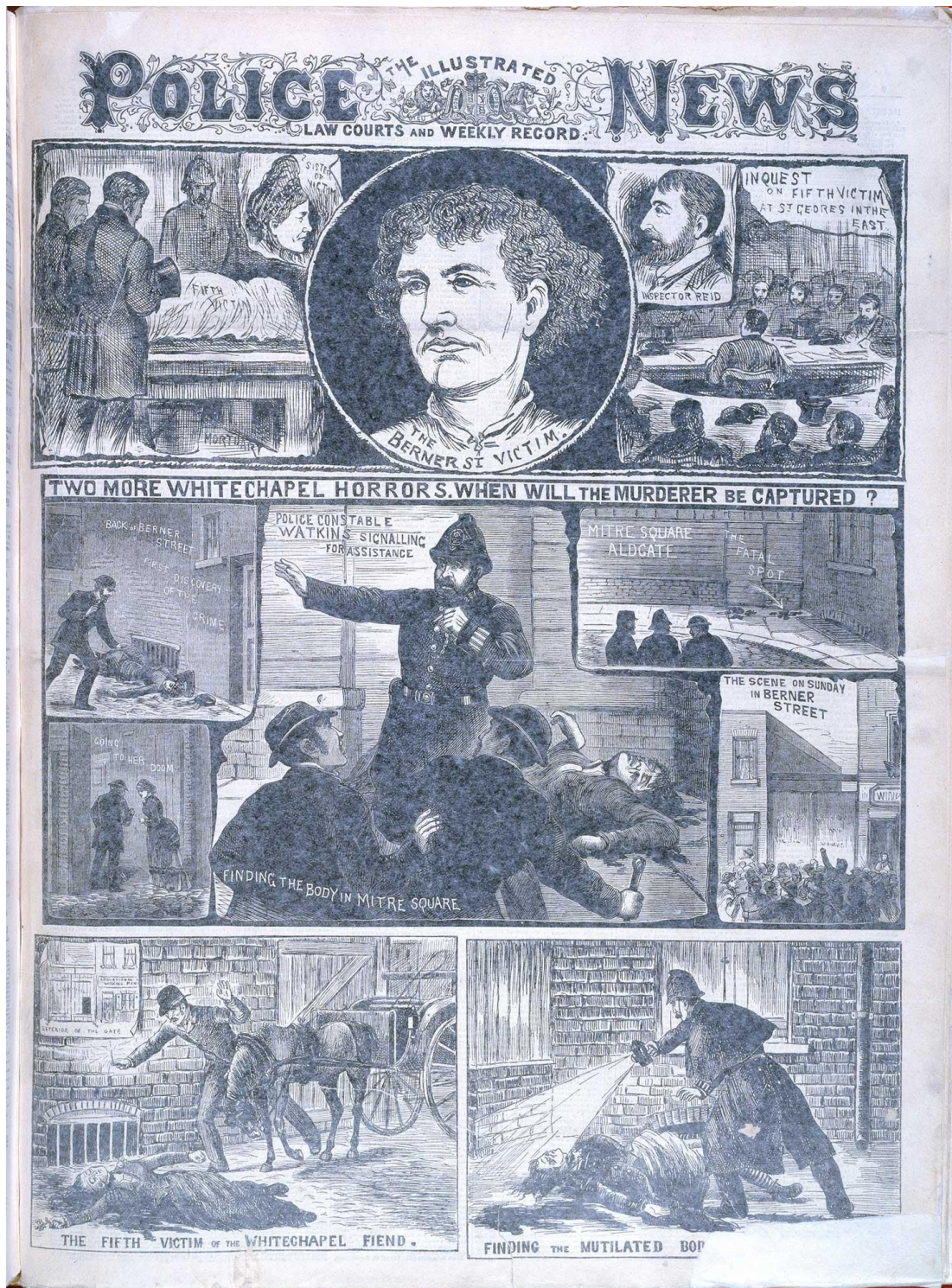
Questions 2 a), 2 b)

Source B



Questions 2 a), 2 b) How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the effectiveness of policing in Whitechapel between c1888-c1900?

Source A



Questions 2 a), 2 b)

Source B

An extract from an article on Whitechapel's H Division Police Force, taken from the BBC America website.

Though [H Division] never managed to bring the notorious Jack the Ripper to justice, it was not through any lack of trying. It must be noted that forensics in 1888 was virtually non-existent. Fingerprinting was not used by the Met until 3 years later in 1891, and the best you could get from a blood test was to determine if it was mammalian or not. The best chance of a conviction was to either locate damning evidence on a person, a confession or capturing the murder in the act. To do this, the Met sent men out in various disguises into pubs to obtain gossip and to mill the streets with the homeless and unemployed just in hopes of picking up some information. They also wandered the dangerous streets at night, arresting anyone who acted suspicious. However, it was all in vain. By 1896, the Whitechapel Murderer, aka Jack the Ripper, had not been brought to task and the investigation wound down.