Sample exercise linked to Mark Freeman, *Quantitative Skills for Historians* (IHR and HEA, 2010)

This exercise is based on the data to which a link is provided from page 10 of the guide.

GIVE YOUR ANSWERS TO ONE DECIMAL PLACE (EXCEPT WHERE WHOLE NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED).

The worksheet is in 4 sections; you should attempt all questions in each section. Each question is allocated a number of marks; the total marks for the exercise add up to 220. Your overall mark will be determined by dividing your total mark by 10, and rounding, to obtain a number that corresponds with a grade on the university's 22-point scale. So if you were to score 154, this would be divided by 10 to give 15.4, and your overall mark would be rounded to 15, and your grade would be B3.

Where you are asked to give a commentary, an appropriate approximate length is given. In these questions you should reflect on your wider reading and historical understanding.

Where the question asks you to present a chart, marks will be given for the accuracy of the answer, and for the presentation of the graph. Remember that charts must be labelled appropriately in all cases. For the purposes of this exercise, you do **not** need to give the source when presenting charts.

In the spreadsheet, space is provided for you to calculate your answers (e.g. columns E, F, K and L of the 'Health insurance' worksheet).

Section A: Healthcare (60 marks)

A1. (Use column E of the Health Insurance worksheet.) What was the total number of people eligible for benefits under the national health insurance scheme in the UK in:

(a) 1917? (2 marks)
(b) 1927? (2 marks)
(c) 1937? (2 marks)

A2. (Use column F of the Health Insurance worksheet.) Of the total number entitled to benefits under the national health insurance scheme, what percentage was *male* in:

(a) 1917? (2 marks)
(b) 1927? (2 marks)
(c) 1937? (2 marks)

A3. In the space provided (columns J to L) create a table showing the persons eligible for benefits under the national health insurance scheme as a percentage of the total population for each of the years 1914-38. (i.e. eligible men as a % of

all men, and eligible women as a % of all women). Copy and paste this table into this worksheet. (12 marks)

A4. Create a column chart based on the table you created for question A3. Label and annotate it appropriately, and copy and paste it into this worksheet. (10 marks)

A5. What general picture of health insurance coverage in the interwar period emerges from this table and chart? (14 marks – about 100 words)

A6. Create a table showing the percentage of health visitors maintained by local authorities and by voluntary organisations in the period 1918-38. (Use columns F to H of the 'Maternal and child welfare' worksheet.) Copy and paste the table into this worksheet. (12 marks)

<u>**Section B: Housing**</u> (50 marks)

B1. What percentage of all council houses in the period were built under

  (a) the Housing and Town Planning Act (1919)? (4 marks)
  (b) the Housing Act (1923)? (4 marks)
  (c) the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act (1924)? (4 marks)

B2. Create a line chart showing the annual number of houses built under each of the four Housing Acts or groups of Acts for the period 1920-39. Label the chart appropriately, and copy and paste it into this worksheet. (20 marks)

B3. What does this line chart tell us about the chronology of council house building in interwar Britain? (18 marks – about 120 words)

<u>**Section C: Education**</u> (50 marks)

C1. What was the percentage increase in the total secondary school population between 1924 and 1938? (5 marks)

C2. Column E of the 'Secondary schools' worksheet shows the percentage of elementary school pupils in each year that went on to secondary education. What do the figures in this column suggest about the expansion of secondary education in interwar England and Wales? (10 marks – about 60 words)

C3. Using columns L and M of the 'Universities' worksheet, create a table showing the universities' income per full-time student each year for the years 1920/1-1937/8. Copy and paste this table into this worksheet. (10 marks)

C4. Create a line chart showing the number of university students studying arts, pure science, medicine and technology in England and Wales for the years 1920/1-1937/8. (Do not include a line for agriculture.) Give the chart an appropriate title, and copy and paste it into this worksheet. (16 marks)

C5. What percentage of full-time students were studying Arts subjects in

(a) 1920-1? (3 marks)
 (b) 1930-1? (3 marks)
 (c) 1937-8? (3 marks)

<u>Section D: Social welfare in the interwar years</u> (60 Marks)

In about <u>700 words</u>, comment on how far the data in these tables and graphs supports the view that the interwar period was one of steady but unspectacular change in the role of the state in the provision of healthcare, council housing and education.

You should illustrate your discussion with examples from the data, and use the relevant literature (see the reading list on p. 14 of the 'introduction to Excel'). Your answer should include footnotes and a bibliography.