

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY

HS1J

Unit 1

Alternative J: The Origins and Consolidation of Totalitarian Regimes, 1918–1939

Wednesday 7 June 2006 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS1J.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- All questions carry 25 marks.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Adapted from 'Lenin's Testament', a letter written by Lenin in December 1922.

Comrade Stalin, having become General Secretary, has unlimited authority concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that authority with sufficient caution. Comrade Trotsky is perhaps the most capable man in the Central Committee, but he displays
5 excessive self-confidence.

Stalin is too rude and this defect, although quite acceptable in the Politburo, is unacceptable in a General Secretary. That is why I suggest that comrades think about a way of removing Stalin from the post and appointing another man in his place. This may appear to be a minor detail but I think that it is
10 a safeguard against a split.

Source B Adapted from *Mein Kampf*, written by Adolf Hitler in 1925.

It ought never to be forgotten that no really great, lasting achievement has ever been made by coalitions, but has been due to the triumph of one individual man. Successes achieved by coalitions, owing to the nature of coalitions, contain the seeds of future failure. The national state will never
5 be created by the unstable coalition of workers but only by the willpower of a single movement.

Source C Adapted from a speech by Benito Mussolini, March 1919.

I have the impression that the present regime in Italy has failed. It is clear to everyone that a crisis now exists. During the war all of us sensed the weakness of the government; today we know that our victory was due only to the virtues of the Italian people, and not to the intelligence or ability of its
5 leaders.

We must not be fainthearted, now that the future nature of the political system is to be determined. We must act fast. We must be ready to take the place of the present regime. For these reasons we are establishing the *fasci* as organs for action to be ready to rush out into the streets and cry out 'the
10 right to power belongs to us'.

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- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the importance of ‘unlimited authority’ (line 1) in the context of Stalin’s growing power within the Bolshevik Party before Lenin’s death in January 1924. *(3 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source A** and **either Source B or Source C** and your own knowledge.

Explain how **Source A** differs from **either Source B or Source C** in relation to criticisms of other politicians. *(7 marks)*

- (c) Use **Source A** and **either Source B or Source C** and your own knowledge.

Explain the importance of the failures of political rivals, in relation to other factors, in the rise to power of Stalin and **either Hitler or Mussolini**.

You should refer in your answer to the USSR, 1924–1929 and **either Germany, 1928–1933 or Italy, 1918–1922**. *(15 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

EITHER 2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

Adapted from Vyshinsky's statement at the end of a show trial, March 1938.

The whole country is awaiting and demanding one thing. The traitors and spies must be shot. Our happy country with our beloved leader and teacher will then march onwards to Communism.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'traitors and spies' (line 1) in relation to the show trials in the USSR in the years 1936 to 1938. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why there was so little effective opposition to Stalin in the USSR in the years 1934 to 1939. *(7 marks)*
- (c) 'The purges were solely intended to eliminate Stalin's rivals.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement with reference to the years 1934 to 1939. *(15 marks)*

OR 3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

Adapted from a personal reflection by an opponent of totalitarianism.

I doubted that we could succeed. We were so few and the dictatorship so strong and deeply rooted. I did not know that there were so many others who were struggling for the same idea.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'dictatorship' (line 1) in relation to **either** the Nazi dictatorship in Germany, 1934–1939 **or** the Fascist dictatorship in Italy, 1925–1939. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why dictatorship was established in **either** Germany **or** Italy. *(7 marks)*
- (c) 'There was little effective opposition to dictatorship because of the use of terror.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement with reference to **either** Germany in the years 1933 to 1939 **or** Italy in the years 1922 to 1939. *(15 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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