

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY
Unit 6W

HS6F

Alternative F: The End of the Soviet Union, c1968–1991

Friday 23 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 HS6F.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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 part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

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

Source A Soviet economic statistics 1966–1985: average percentage rates of growth.

	National Income	Gross Industrial Productivity	Gross Agricultural Productivity	Labour Productivity	Real Income Per Head
1966–1970	7.8	8.5	3.9	6.8	5.9
1971–1975	5.7	7.4	2.5	4.5	4.4
1976–1980	4.3	4.4	1.7	3.3	3.4
1981–1985	3.6	3.7	1.1	3.1	2.1

Adapted from J LAVER, *Stagnation and Reform: The USSR, 1964–1991*, 1997

Source B A Soviet political adviser commenting on ‘Developed Socialism’ in 1978.

Soviet society has just entered the period of the scientific and technological revolution. The Soviet economy produces in one day a product valued ten times greater than the daily output at the end of the 1930s. The economy is now developing in a more balanced and harmonious manner, with the

5 extensive application of computer technology and the latest advances of science. There is a strengthening of the unity of the nationalities and the gradual formation of a Soviet people as a new social community. The most active, progressive and conscious part of the working people is the Communist Party. Then there are the active elements of trade unions, the

10 *Komsomol* (youth movement) and other organisations. Social activists come from all classes and all sections of the working-class, the collective farm peasantry and the intelligentsia.

- Source C** By the end of the Brezhnev period it became clear that genuine economic reform, reflecting the pressure of supply and demand, could not be reconciled with the Soviet system of planning on which the political power of the party was based. Ultimately the reforming zeal petered out.
- 5 Economic stagnation ended the slow but steady rise in the standard of living. The most important source of dissent was the gradually diminishing power of ideology: the ideological promises began to ring hollow. In the 1970s and 1980s, observers of the Soviet Union agreed that if there was a dangerous weakness of the regime, it was the nationality question. No one,
- 10 of course, at this time thought of independence, but in the Brezhnev period, the awful uniformity imposed by Stalinism on the entire vast country began to change. A single Soviet identity did not come into being. However, this did not mean that the collapse of the Soviet system was caused by seething nationalist passions.

Adapted from P KENEZ, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End*, 1999

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

Assess the validity of the interpretation in **Source B** of the social and economic development in the USSR under Brezhnev's 'Developed Socialism'. (10 marks)

- (b) Use **Source C** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source C** as evidence of the reasons for the decline of the stability of the Soviet regime during the period 1968–1985? (10 marks)

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

'The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was not inevitable, but the failure of Soviet leaders to address its fundamental weaknesses since 1968 always made the collapse likely.'

Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source C: P KENEZ, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End*, Cambridge University Press, 1999.

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