



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2009

## History

## HIS2E

Unit 2E The Reign of Peter the Great of Russia, 1682–1725

**Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards**

**This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 HIS2E.
- 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 marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

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

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

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** It has been suggested that Peter's plunge into war with the Ottoman Turks in 1695 stemmed from his restlessness and desire to test his army. But also, Russia's only seaport was frozen for six months of the year. Only the South and the Black Sea promised an outlet to salt water. Every summer the Tatars rode North to raid the Ukraine. Furthermore, Russia's ally, the King of Poland, judging that Russia had contributed nothing in the common war against Turkey, had threatened to make a separate peace with the Ottoman Empire which would ignore Russia's interests completely.

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Adapted from R MASSIE, *Peter the Great: His Life and World*, 1982

**Source B** Adapted from a message sent by Peter the Great to Balkan Christians in 1711

The Turks have trampled our faith into the mud, have seized by treachery all the Holy Places, and have destroyed many churches and monasteries. They have caused great distress and have created many widows and orphans. Now I come to your aid. Do not run away from my great empire, for it is just. Shake off fear, and fight for the faith, for the Church, for which we shall shed our last drop of blood.

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**Source C** By 1725 Peter had failed to gain a 'window on the Black Sea' and had not become the dominant power in the eastern Balkans. However, although Peter failed to achieve his aims on his southern frontiers, he had more success in establishing Russia as a European power. This was symbolised by the development of links by marriage with several German royal families. Peter's opponents were divided and weary after many years of war. Peter's triumph was sealed at the Treaty of Nystadt. He had solved both the Polish and the Swedish problems.

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Adapted from J BLACK, *Russia's Rise as a European Power, 1650–1750*, 1986

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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Russian motives for fighting the Turks during Peter the Great's reign. (12 marks)

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Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How successful was Peter the Great in making Russia a great European power by 1725? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why, in 1703, Peter the Great began the construction of St. Petersburg. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'The most important motive behind Peter the Great's policy of westernisation was to strengthen his personal power.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why Peter the Great reformed the Russian Orthodox Church. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'State control over the Church was the most important factor in ensuring loyalty to Peter the Great's regime.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Sources A and B: R MASSIE, *Peter the Great: His Life and World*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1982. Reproduced by permission of Weidenfeld and Nicolson, a division of the Orion Publishing Group

Source C: J BLACK, *Russia's Rise as a European Power, 1650–1750*, History Today, 1986. Reproduced by permission of History Today.