



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2009

## History

## HIS2K

**Unit 2K A New Roman Empire?  
Mussolini's Italy, 1922–1945**

**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 HIS2K.
- 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.

---

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

---

### Question 1

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

**Source A** In 1924, the death of Matteotti almost toppled Mussolini's government. Danger came from two directions. An outraged anti-Fascist opposition, composed of Liberals, Catholics, Socialists, Republicans and Communists, withdrew from parliament in the so-called Aventine Secession. The second danger came from conservative elements within Mussolini's parliamentary majority. The anti-Fascists gambled that mounting evidence of Fascist guilt would convince these conservatives that the government would have to be replaced. What actually happened was that the conservatives became more wary of opposition and tried to increase their power within the new Fascist government. Direct power frightened the conservatives. It was much safer to work with a crippled Mussolini.

Adapted from A J DE GRAND, *Italian Fascism: Origins and Development*, 2000

**Source B** When the Matteotti crisis began, Mussolini knew immediately his government was in serious danger. He told his staff: 'Create as much confusion as possible. If I get away with this we will all survive, otherwise we will all sink together'. Mussolini angrily denied any responsibility for the Matteotti murder, and the country seemed willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. There were almost no protests or strikes, even in the big cities. The Vatican's newspaper preached forgiveness. The King did nothing. The principal threats to Mussolini came from the press and from within his own cabinet; but mainstream conservative opinion was still behind the government.

Adapted from C DUGGAN, *The Force of Destiny: Italy Since 1796*, 2007

**Source C** In the 1924 elections, the Fascist-led coalition won by a landslide. Even so, Mussolini had not wanted to take any risks. The electoral campaign was marred by irregularities and violence. When the socialist deputy Giacomo Matteotti denounced the violence and the corruption involving those near to Mussolini, he was kidnapped and killed, perhaps on the orders of Mussolini himself. Italy's elites now stood helpless as the man they thought would be their puppet emerged as the true winner. In the years that followed, the old political parties were dissolved, the trade unions brought under control, a secret police established and school textbooks placed under strict government supervision. In February 1929, the Italian state made its peace with the Papacy, signing the Concordat. Pope Pius XI called Mussolini 'the man Providence has sent us'.

Adapted from D SASSOON, *Mussolini and the Rise of Fascism*, 2007

---

**0 1** 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 the Matteotti Affair of 1924. *(12 marks)*

**0 2** Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the use of violence and intimidation in the consolidation of Mussolini's Fascist regime between 1922 and 1929? *(24 marks)*

**EITHER**

**Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why Mussolini launched the 'Battle for Grain' in 1925. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'Mussolini's economic policies in the years 1925 to 1939 were very successful.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR**

**Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why, in June 1940, Mussolini decided to take Italy into the Second World War. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Throughout the years from 1923 to 1939, Mussolini's foreign policies were very successful.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Question 1 Source A: From *Italian Fascism: Its Origins and Development*, third edition, by ALEXANDER J DE GRAND by permission of the University of Nebraska Press. © 1982, 1989, 2000 by the University of Nebraska Press

Source B: C DUGGAN, *The Force of Destiny: A History of Italy Since 1796*, Penguin Books, London, 2007, p 445. Reproduced by permission of Penguin Books Ltd.

Source C: D SASSOON, *Mussolini and the Rise of Fascism*, Harper Press, 2007