



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2011

History

HIS2K

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

Thursday 19 May 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 The war in Abyssinia won support for the regime from important sectors of society: the Catholic hierarchy, the middle class, and even some workers and peasants. It was a popular war during which the Fascist state reached the peak of its internal support. Some of this popularity was genuine but much of it was created by an
5 extraordinary propaganda effort. Radio, films, newspapers and schools were used as instruments in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the population. But the war also had the negative effect of killing hopes for domestic reform.

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

Source B By the late 1930s, the reports from the police authorities, who provided the most accurate picture of the popular mood, had begun to cause Mussolini increasing displeasure. The hoped for transformation of the Italians was obviously not succeeding, despite the appeal of Fascist expansionism to youth and to the land
5 hunger of the peasantry. After the end of the war in Abyssinia the regime was less and less successful in keeping the nation's support. Intervention in Spain was not popular, the anti-Jewish campaign Mussolini mounted in 1938 to symbolise his commitment to Germany even less so, and the Axis alliance least of all. In 1938 and 1939 the prospect of general war horrified Italian opinion.

Adapted from M KNOX, *Mussolini Unleashed, 1939–1941*, 1982

Source C The conquest of Abyssinia appears to have been genuinely popular in Italy. Mussolini's popularity at home was probably never higher. In May 1936 he announced the foundation of the Italian Empire to ecstatic crowds. Abyssinia gave Mussolini a dangerous sense of self-confidence. In the second half of 1936 he
5 began sending forces to Spain to help General Franco against the Republicans. There was no real reason to do this and common sense was against it; but common sense now figured less and less in his calculations. It also dashed any hopes of a reconciliation with France and Britain, pushing Italy more firmly than ever into the arms of Germany.

Adapted from C DUGGAN, *A Concise History of Italy*, 1994

0	1
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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 attitudes in Italy towards the Fascist regime. (12 marks)

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

How important was Mussolini's over-confidence in shaping Italian foreign policies in the years 1936 to 1940? (24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0 3 Explain why the Aventine Secession took place in 1924. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'In the years 1924 to 1929, Mussolini's regime achieved complete political dominance in Italy.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 5 Explain why the Salo Republic was established in September 1943. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'The internal resistance movements played a vital role in bringing about the final collapse of the Fascist regime in Italy between September 1943 and April 1945.'
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 Source B: MACGREGOR KNOX, *Mussolini Unleashed, 1939–1941*, 1982, Cambridge University Press.

Question 1 Source C: CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN, *A Concise History of Italy*, 1994, Cambridge University Press.

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