



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2011

History

HIS2L

Unit 2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924–1941

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 HIS2L.
- 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 official view in the 1930s was that Soviet citizens supported Communist policies and saw Stalin as a god. Stalin's totalitarianism was based on the theory that the state manipulated and controlled its citizens, which explains the lack of resistance. The state exerted control through the media, censorship, and culture and by
5 smashing the non-Communist institutions. Stalin came very close to destroying society. By 1933 the disintegration of society threatened economic success.

Adapted from J GRANT, *Stalin and the Soviet Union*, 1998

Source B

Source B, a passage by R Thurston on the impact of Stalinism, is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

The full copy of this paper can be obtained from AQA Publications.

Source C Soviet propaganda taught people a political language and a pattern of behaviour. People came to behave properly, from the point of view of the regime, not because they believed its slogans but because by repeating the slogans they gradually acquired what the state wanted the people to believe. The supreme test for
5 Soviet society was the Second World War. In 1941, the country was prepared not only militarily and economically but also politically. The propaganda system played a major role. That system was flexible enough to adapt quickly to changed circumstances.

Adapted from P KENEZ, *The Birth of the Propaganda State*, 1985

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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 the impact of Stalinism in the 1930s. (12 marks)

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Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.
How far, in the years 1934 to 1941, did Stalinist policies prepare the USSR for war in 1941? (24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0 3 Explain why Trotsky had not become leader of the USSR by 1928. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'In the years 1924 to 1928, the Soviet regime failed to solve the economic problems facing the USSR.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 5 Explain why, by 1929, the Soviet government had serious concerns about agriculture. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'By the end of the First Five-Year Plan, the Soviet economy was in a much stronger position than it had been in 1928.'
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 A: *Stalin and the Soviet Union*, J GRANT, Pearson Education Limited, 1998.

Question 1 Source B: R THURSTON, *Life and Terror in Stalin's Russia, 1934–1941*, Yale University Press, 1996.

Question 1 Source C: P KENEZ, *The Birth of the Propaganda State*, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

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