



A-level HISTORY

Italy & Fascism, c1900–1945

Paper 2L

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2L**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Source A

From Iris Origo **War in the Val d'Orcia: An Italian War Diary 1943-1944**
The author was an Anglo-American woman, married to an Italian landowner.
Her book was first published in 1947

6th March, 1944: Tomorrow is the last day on which the recruits of the 1922-25 classes can join up; then the savage penalties will come into action. This will enable the Fascists to concentrate on those districts where there are the most defaulters and to 'make an example' of as many as they please. It is the old story, in this country, of lack of unity. The same thing has just happened with the general strike, organised by the Communist, Socialist and Democratic-Christian Parties as a protest against the penalties threatened by the Government for the young men who do not join up and also, in some districts, against the lack of sufficient food for the workmen. The strike began on March 1st. According to Radio Roma, it included a quarter of a million workers; according to the BBC about five times as many. What is certain it was not the universal protest that was intended.

Source B

From a report on the partisan army called the Modena Division by Sergeant Isenberg, liaison officer with the American Secret Service, August 1944

The Modena Division under Armando is thoroughly Communist. Each unit is flanked by a Communist commissar. Armando is credited with various cruelties and behaved dictatorially, especially in the period when the division occupied Montefiorino. Several persons – civilians, unit commanders, Italian army officers – who were officially reported killed in action have instead have been eliminated by orders of Armando himself or by one of his more extremist commanders at his suggestion. Armando was able to eliminate personalities who had influence on the partisans because of their gallantry, but had cast aspersions on his own character. Men came from all over the countryside, as many as 8000 partisans attracted by the easy life, the rich food and the authority they had over the civilian population. Armando acted as a dictator and governed over the zone by means of two general commissars, Ercole and Davide, who robbed and extorted from the population without pity.

Source C

From a letter sent to Mussolini by the Archbishop of Udine, 3rd October 1944

There are thousands and thousands of people forced out of their homes by these reprisals, without shelter or food of any sort. What is their crime? Everyone knows that these citizens were unarmed and defenceless. Is it right that because of a few supposed to be guilty, thousands and thousands of innocent people suffer?

I want to be straightforward and tell the whole truth. Germans have never been welcome here; they dislike us because we are Italian and want to be independent. Duce – I appeal to the noble sentiments that inspire you. I beg you in the name of God that you demand just measures against those who have perpetrated these crimes. Germany proclaims herself to be the protector and moving force of Christian civilisation; what is happening here proves this false. Duce – you cannot imagine the hatred of you that has been aroused and this can explode at any time into a terrible vendetta.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Italy under the Salò Republic in 1944.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2

'Italy was in crisis in 1921 because of the disastrous consequences of the First World War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 3**

'Mussolini's success in consolidating the power of his Fascist regime in the years 1922 to 1929 owed little to terror and intimidation.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

'Mussolini's removal from power in 1943 was entirely due to his disastrous foreign policy decisions in the years 1935 to 1940.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Question 1 Source A: I Origo, War in the Val d'Orcia, Allison and Busby, 2008

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