

472/08

**HISTORY – HI2**

**PERIOD STUDY 8**

**UNIT 2**

**ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF  
EUROPE, c. 1878-1980**

A.M. THURSDAY, 12 January 2006

(45 minutes)

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **one** question.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

**You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.**

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*Answer one question.*

*Candidates in their response to the interpretation question should consider the validity of the interpretation using their knowledge of the period and other possible interpretations. Candidates should also consider the factors which may have influenced the way in which the interpretation has been formed – such as the type of historian/author, the evidence available to the historian/author and the date of the publication.*

**1. Revolution in Russia, civil war and the role of Stalin, 1917-1941.**

“The downfall of ‘Bloody’ Tsar Nicholas II was caused by the growth of the politically radicalised masses.”

[Alan Wood, an academic historian and specialist in Russian history, writing in a specialist book on Russia, *The Origins of the Russian Revolution 1861-1917* (1987)]

How valid is this interpretation of the Russian Revolution of 1917? [80]

**2. Fascist Italy, 1922-1939.**

“Everything about Fascism in Italy was a fraud. Fascist rule was corrupt, incompetent, empty.”

[A. J. P. Taylor, an academic historian and specialist in twentieth century European history, writing in a specialist book on the dictators, *The War Lords* (1977)]

How valid is this interpretation of the Fascist regime in Italy between 1922-1939? [80]

**3. Nazi Germany, 1933-1939.**

“Before this war began in 1939, there was complete direction in all aspects of German domestic policy.”

[Josef Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister, writing in his diary (February 1944)]

How valid is this interpretation of Nazi Germany between 1933-1939? [80]