



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

472/08

**HISTORY – HI2
PERIOD STUDY 8
UNIT 2
ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF
EUROPE, c. 1878-1980**

P.M. FRIDAY, 11 January 2008
(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.

“Stalin was the genius, the leader and the teacher of the party, and the greatest strategist of the Socialist revolution.”

[G.F. Alexandrov, an historian commissioned by the Soviet State to write an official biography of Stalin, *Joseph Stalin, A Short Biography* (1947)]

How valid is this interpretation of the role of Stalin? [80]

2. Fascist Italy, 1922-1939.

“The creation of a legend of an all-present, all-wise Duce, was the most novel and effective feature of Italian fascism.”

[Denis Mack Smith, an academic historian and specialist in Italian history, writing in a specialist book, *Mussolini* (1981)]

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

3. Nazi Germany, 1933-1939.

“The Nazi regime’s measures, rather than being the result of long term planning or even deliberate intent, were simply knee-jerk responses to the pressure of circumstance.”

[Alan Farmer, an academic historian and specialist in European history, writing in a general history of Europe, *An introduction to Modern European History 1890-1990* (2000)]

How valid is this interpretation of Nazi rule in Germany from 1933-1939? [80]