



**GCE AS/A level**

472/08

**HISTORY – HI2**

**UNIT 2**

**PERIOD STUDY 8**

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

P.M. MONDAY, 2 June 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 or part-question.

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

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

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## PERIOD STUDY 8

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

Answer **one** question.

*Candidates in their responses 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 rule of Stalin, 1917-1941.**

‘Stalin’s economic policy was a great feat of social engineering which laid the foundations of a rich economy for the Soviet Union.’

[Adam Ulam, an academic historian and specialist in the modern history of the Soviet Union, writing in a biography of Stalin, *Stalin: the man and his era* (1973)]

How valid is this interpretation of Stalin’s rule of the Soviet Union? [80]

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

‘Mussolini was a shallow opportunist and political manipulator whose whole regime was nothing more than a propaganda show.’

[Dr. Philip Morgan, an academic historian and specialist in Italian history, writing in an article on Mussolini for an historical magazine, *New Perspectives* (2001)]

How valid is this interpretation of the impact of Fascist rule upon Italian society between 1922-1939? [80]

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

‘Hitler was complete Master in the Third Reich. The point cannot be stressed too strongly.’

[Norman Rich, an academic historian and specialist in the history of Nazi Germany, writing in a specialist book, *Hitler’s War Aims* (1974)]

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