

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 4**

**HS4F**

**Alternative F: Russia and the USSR, 1881–1985**

Monday 18 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or 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 HS4F.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.
- In answering both Question 1(b) in Section A and your choice of question from Section B, you are advised to draw on an appropriate range of historical knowledge and skills, to demonstrate overall historical understanding for the synoptic assessment requirements for this question paper.

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Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

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**SECTION A: ECONOMIC MODERNISATION IN RUSSIA AND THE USSR, 1881–1985**

You **must** answer this question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question.

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1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** By 1881 the peasantry had plenty to complain about. They had received less land than they had used before emancipation, and they had to pay artificially high prices for it. Continued population growth ensured that average land holdings fell. By 1900, land hunger had become a national calamity, and a problem sufficiently serious to turn the peasantry into a revolutionary force.

5

Adapted from D CHRISTIAN, *Power and Privilege*, 1986

**Source B** A selection of results of the 1918–19 Plan for grain collections from peasant communities by the government. A pud is a Russian measurement of weight.

Province	Planned (thousand puds)	Collected (thousand puds)	Percentage of plan achieved
Riazan (Central Russia)	5 000	3 075	61.5%
Orel (Western Russia)	14 100	7 725	54.8%
Kursk (South Western Russia)	17 000	4 286	25.2%
Viatka (North Eastern Russia)	30 500	7 544	24.7%

Adapted from Russian data in S MALLE, *The Economic Organisation of War Communism 1918–1921*, 1985

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**Source C**

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Tel. 0161 953 1170

**Source D** Adapted from the official Communist Party Food Programme published in *Pravda*, August 1982

Agricultural accomplishments could have been more impressive if the advantages of a planned economy had been utilised more fully and shortcomings had been combated more persistently. During the 1970s the financial situation of many agricultural enterprises worsened. There was

5 organisational chaos, so for example certain farms received tractors whilst other farms received the ploughs and trailers to go with them. There were dwindling harvests, and the production of meat, milk and other products was falling. There was confusion over how farms got technical support. There were antiquated working methods and idleness in economic thinking.

10 There have been minimal improvements in planning agro-industrial production.

(a) Use **Sources B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How useful are **Sources B** and **C** in explaining the impact of Communist agricultural policy in the years between the 1917 revolution and 1941? (10 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A, B, C** and **D** and your own knowledge.

‘Weaknesses in the agricultural sector completely undermined Russian and Soviet economic progress in the period 1881–1985.’

Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)

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**SECTION B: THE STALIN DICTATORSHIP AND ITS LEGACY, 1929–1968**

Answer **one** question from this section.

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- 2 Assess the extent of the political and social impact of the Stalinist Terror on the USSR in the years to 1941. *(20 marks)*
- 3 Assess the relative importance of military and economic factors in securing the USSR's success in war against Germany between 1941 and 1945. *(20 marks)*
- 4 'Khrushchev's fall from power in 1963 owed less to his own shortcomings than to the impossibility of modifying Stalinism in the USSR.'  
Assess the validity of this statement. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 1 Source A: D CHRISTIAN, *Power and Privilege*, Pearson Education Limited, 1986.

Question 1 Source B: S MALLE, *The Economic Organisation of War Communism 1918–1921*, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

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