



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

History

HIS2K

**Unit 2K A New Roman Empire?
Mussolini's Italy, 1922–1945**

Friday 16 January 2009 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 HIS2K.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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

Source A Adapted from a speech by Mussolini to the Permanent Wheat Committee in September 1932

I am pleased to inform you that the harvest of wheat this year has risen to more than 75 million quintals.* This year's production is the highest ever in Italy, greater even than the 70.9 million that was considered extraordinary in 1929. During the six years before the war, the average production stood at 49 million.

- 5 These increases in harvest are not due to an increase in the land under cultivation, which was 4.7 million hectares in 1914 and was 4.9 million in 1932. It is productivity that has increased. The rural population now works in the rhythm set for it by the Fascist Regime.

**quintal*: a metric measurement, equivalent to 100 kilograms

Source B The great advantage of Mussolini's economic 'battles' was that the Italian people could be mobilised in a non-class, non-political way for nationalistic economic ends. One key economic battle was the 'Battle for Grain'. At that time, grain accounted for half of Italy's imports. In order to cut Italy's massive balance of payments deficit, Mussolini set in motion a campaign to increase production. Propaganda, including pictures of a bare-chested *Duce* and a range of incentives, was used to persuade farmers to switch to grain production. While output did increase, the campaign had its drawbacks. It encouraged farmers to stop producing other vital crops and to cultivate land that was often unsuitable for grain.

Adapted from J POLLARD, *The Fascist Experience in Italy*, 1998

Source C Although in turn the Battle for the Lira, the Battle for Grain, the Battle for Births and many other triumphs have each been announced by Mussolini as the 'outstanding event' of his reign, the *Duce* has also stated that his greatest gift to civilisation, the accomplishment for which he will be remembered forever, is the Corporate State. Mussolini said that: 'the Corporate State's ultimate goal is the well-being of the Italian people'. The facts are, however, that Italy has one of the lowest standards of living in the civilised world, that this sorry state has been reached during the Fascist regime, and that it is one of the chief results of the Fascist economic programme.

Adapted from G SELDES, *Sawdust Caesar*, 1936

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

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the achievements of the 'Battle for Grain' by the early 1930s. (12 marks)

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

How successfully did Mussolini fulfil his aims in economic policy in the years 1925 to 1939? (24 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) Explain why the King of Italy appointed Mussolini prime minister in 1922. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘The key to Mussolini’s success in consolidating his regime in the years 1922 to 1927 was his popularity with the Italian people.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Explain why there was civil war in Italy after the overthrow of Mussolini. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Mussolini’s downfall in 1943 was caused by his own ineffective leadership from 1935 onwards.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source B: J POLLARD, *The Fascist Experience in Italy*, Routledge, 1998

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