



General Certificate of Education

History 1041

Specification

Unit HIS2L

Report on the Examination

2009 examination – January series

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Unit HIS2L

Unit 2L: The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924–1941

Comments from the Chief Examiner: Unit 2

In this examination session some issues generic to all the Unit 2 papers were noted:

- In the compulsory source question, 1(b), some candidates failed to use both the sources and their own knowledge in responding to the question. Candidates must be reminded that unless they refer to the sources, by explicit comment on detail or views, paraphrasing or direct quotation (or if they use the sources only and show no additional knowledge), their mark will be limited to a maximum of the top of Level 2.
- Although there were fewer problems of timing than in Unit 1, some candidates clearly spent considerably longer than 15 minutes on the (a) questions and 30 minutes on the (b) questions, and consequently failed to complete their final answer. They should be reminded that even a couple of focused paragraphs could enable them to reach a Level 2 mark, whereas a string of notes would be unlikely to show skills above Level 1.
- It was clear from some scripts that candidates were not familiar with the complete content requirements for their alternative. Candidates must be reminded that they need to revise all of the content of these 'depth' units, particularly since this paper features one compulsory question which can be drawn from any part of the specification content, as can the remaining two questions, from which they have to choose one.

Report from the Principal Examiner

General Comments

There were so few entries for this first examination of this specification that any meaningful comment is impossible. The candidates attempting the compulsory Question 1 (source-based), showed reasonable comprehension of the sources and were able to identify some of the differences and similarities between them. However, the level of analysis was limited, and candidates, whether using the sources or their own knowledge, did not in most cases present a very meaningful analysis of whether industrialisation, as carried out, met Stalin's objectives. There were very few answers to Question 2. The few answers to Question 3 were variable in quality, but candidates had limited knowledge of the impact of the Terror beyond the fact that many Russians were purged. There were no particular issues of time-management obvious from the examination, and the quality of literacy was varied.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.