



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2009

History

HIS2L

Unit 2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 HIS2L.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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.

Question 1

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

Source A There was a story in the early 1930s of Stalin telling police chief Yagoda that he preferred people to support him from fear rather than from beliefs, because beliefs could change. Khrushchev [Stalin's successor as Soviet leader] told the Party in 1956 that 'Stalin practised brutal violence not only against anything that opposed him, but
5 also against what seemed to be contrary to his beliefs'. The desire for power was Stalin's strongest and most obvious motivation. The Terror remains above all Stalin's personal achievement.

Adapted from R CONQUEST, *The Great Terror*, 1968

Source B It is right to move away from the limited view of Stalin as the sole driving force behind the Terror. Whether he was insane or suffering from paranoia is only partially relevant. He inherited a revolution. The sheer scale of the upheaval can only be understood on a national scale. Although Stalin began and maintained the purges, they assumed a
5 momentum that went beyond even his expectations. This reflects the relative inefficiency of the Soviet system and a loss of control by it. The Terror can no longer be attributed only to one man's paranoia.

Adapted from S LEE, *Stalin and the Soviet Union*, 1999

Source C Stalin was not guilty of mass first-degree murder from 1934 to 1941 and did not plan a systematic campaign to crush the nation. However, his policies did result in real plots and threats to his position. This caused Stalin to over-react to events. All the while, he could not control illegal acts by managers and many others. Soviet officials at many
5 levels, and citizens, were inclined to panic and believe in plots. Stalin's power was limited in major ways, despite a common view that the USSR was a kind of machine operated by a handful of men. Stalin did not need to rule by terror. Nor was the scale of arrests and unnatural deaths under Stalin sufficient to cause general fear of the regime. Terror touched a minority of citizens. Most citizens did not even notice
10 it except in newspapers or speeches. For the bulk of the urban population, Stalinism provided an important means of upward social mobility and participation, as the country moved from backwardness to superpower status.

Adapted from R THURSTON, *Life and Terror in Stalin's Russia, 1934–1941*, 1996

0 1 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 reasons for the Terror in the USSR in the 1930s. *(12 marks)*

0 2 Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was Stalin's use of terror in securing his domination of the USSR in the years 1934 to 1941? *(24 marks)*

EITHER

Question 2

0 3 Explain why, by 1928, the Soviet leadership had decided on the collectivisation of agriculture. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'By 1941, collectivisation had seriously weakened the USSR.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

Question 3

0 5 Explain why Stalin introduced a Five-Year Plan for industry in 1928. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'By 1941, the Five-Year Plans had ensured that the USSR was ready to face the challenge of war.'
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 A: R CONQUEST, *The Great Terror*, Macmillan, 1968. Reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan

Source B: S LEE, *Stalin and the Soviet Union*, Routledge, 1999

Source C: R THURSTON, *Life and Terror in Stalin's Russia, 1934–1941*, Yale University Press, 1996. Copyright © 1996 Yale University Press