



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2010

## History

## HIS2K

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

**Thursday 10 June 2010 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.
- 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.
- 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.

HIS2K

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** Part of the conversation between King Victor Emmanuel and Mussolini on 25 July 1943, recalled by a bodyguard who was standing outside the door.

I heard the King say: 'Things are no longer working. Italy is on its knees. The army's morale is at rock bottom and the soldiers do not want to fight anymore. The vote of the Grand Council is dreadful. At this moment you are the most hated man in Italy. Only one friend has remained with you—myself. I have demonstrated my friendship many times, defending you from every attack, but this time I must ask you to leave me free to place the government in other hands.' Mussolini said: 'Then everything is finished?' The King answered: 'I am sorry, I am very sorry. There is no other solution.'

**Source B** In July 1943 the King, urged on by his generals, decided that the monarchy and the traditional Italian state could only be saved by immediately breaking with the Fascists. The ageing Victor Emmanuel had been a mediocre king. In the early 1920s he had willingly backed the Fascists but he had no love for Mussolini, who had constantly upstaged him during the following twenty years. The King knew he had to act to prevent his dynasty being damned in the eyes of the Allies and swept away by pressure from below. Fascism was destroyed by a coup from above that preserved the control and freedom of action of the traditional ruling elites in Italian society. Victor Emmanuel's decision to remove Mussolini shaped the whole balance of power in Italy in the following two years.

Adapted from P GINSBORG, *A History Of Contemporary Italy*, 1990

**Source C** Italy's Fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, fell from power not once but twice, first in July 1943 and again in April 1945. Once the King had dismissed Mussolini as prime minister in July 1943, his transitional government was unable to carry out its totally unrealistic plan for Italy's safe and painless exit from war. This failure prolonged the war in Italy and led to the Nazi German restoration of Mussolini to nominal power in the north Italian Social Republic, based at Salo. The outcome was a worsening of the civil war between Italians, the 'war within a war', which characterised the period from autumn 1943 to spring 1945.

Adapted from P MORGAN, *The Fall of Mussolini*, 2007

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

How far do the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to King Victor Emmanuel's dismissal of Mussolini from power? (12 marks)

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

How far was Mussolini personally responsible for the collapse of his Fascist regime in the years 1943 to 1945? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the Fascist Party won an overwhelming election victory in 1924. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'Between the 1924 election and the end of 1929, Mussolini overcame opposition to his regime with ease.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why Mussolini launched the Battle for Births in 1927. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Fascist social policies in the 1920s and 1930s gained widespread support for Mussolini.'  
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: Reproduced from *A History of Contemporary Italy* © Paul Ginsborg by permission of United Agents Ltd.  
([www.unitedagents.co.uk](http://www.unitedagents.co.uk)) on behalf of the author

Question 1 Source C: P MORGAN, *The Fall of Mussolini*, 2007, Oxford University Press

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