



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

History

HIS2L

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

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 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.

HIS2L

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 Adapted from Lenin's Testament, written in 1922 and 1923 but not shown to leading Communists until May 1924

- Comrade Stalin, having become General Secretary, has boundless power concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that power with sufficient caution. He is too rude, and this fault becomes intolerable in a General Secretary. That is why I suggest that comrades appoint another man who differs from
- 5 Comrade Stalin in being more tolerant, more loyal, more polite and more considerate to comrades.

Source B A description of Stalin by Henri Barbusse, a French Communist who met Stalin in 1932

- Stalin's power lies in his formidable intelligence, the breadth of his knowledge, the amazing orderliness of his mind, his passion for precision, his unflinching spirit of progress, the rapidity, sureness and intensity of his decisions. He is extraordinarily like Lenin. He has the same practical common sense, the same firmness. He knows
- 5 how not to go too quickly. He knows how to weigh the right moment. Of all the revolutionaries of history, he has the fewest faults. He reflects a great deal before proposing anything. He does not easily give his trust to others. Stalin once said, 'A reasonable amount of distrust is a good basis for working together.' Stalin is as cautious as a lion.

Source C Beneath Stalin's bland and grey exterior was an extremely ruthless and opportunist character. Whilst posing as a moderate, he waited for the opportunity to attack other candidates for the leadership—first Zinoviev and Kamenev, then Bukharin. Stalin controlled the Party organisation and the promotion of its leading members. The Party

5 base enabled Stalin to outmanoeuvre his rivals at all stages. It also meant that he was consistently more secure than Trotsky. Trotsky was essentially a man of the State, not of the Party. The State had of course, become subject to the Party. Hence, Stalin controlled the method by which Trotsky could be outmanoeuvred. Stalin strengthened support for his position by reading correctly the signs of the economic times.

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

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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 Stalin.
(12 marks)

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

How far was Stalin's rise to power by 1929 due to his rivals underestimating him?
(24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0 3 Explain why, in the years 1936 to 1938, Stalin held show trials of leading Bolsheviks. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'The use of propaganda was the main reason for the strength of Stalin's regime in the 1930s.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 5 Explain why Stalin launched a campaign to exterminate the kulaks from 1928. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'Stalin's policies ensured that the USSR was well prepared for war in 1941.'
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 C: STEPHEN LEE, *Stalin and the Soviet Union*, 1999, Routledge

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