

**GCE**  
**AS and A Level**

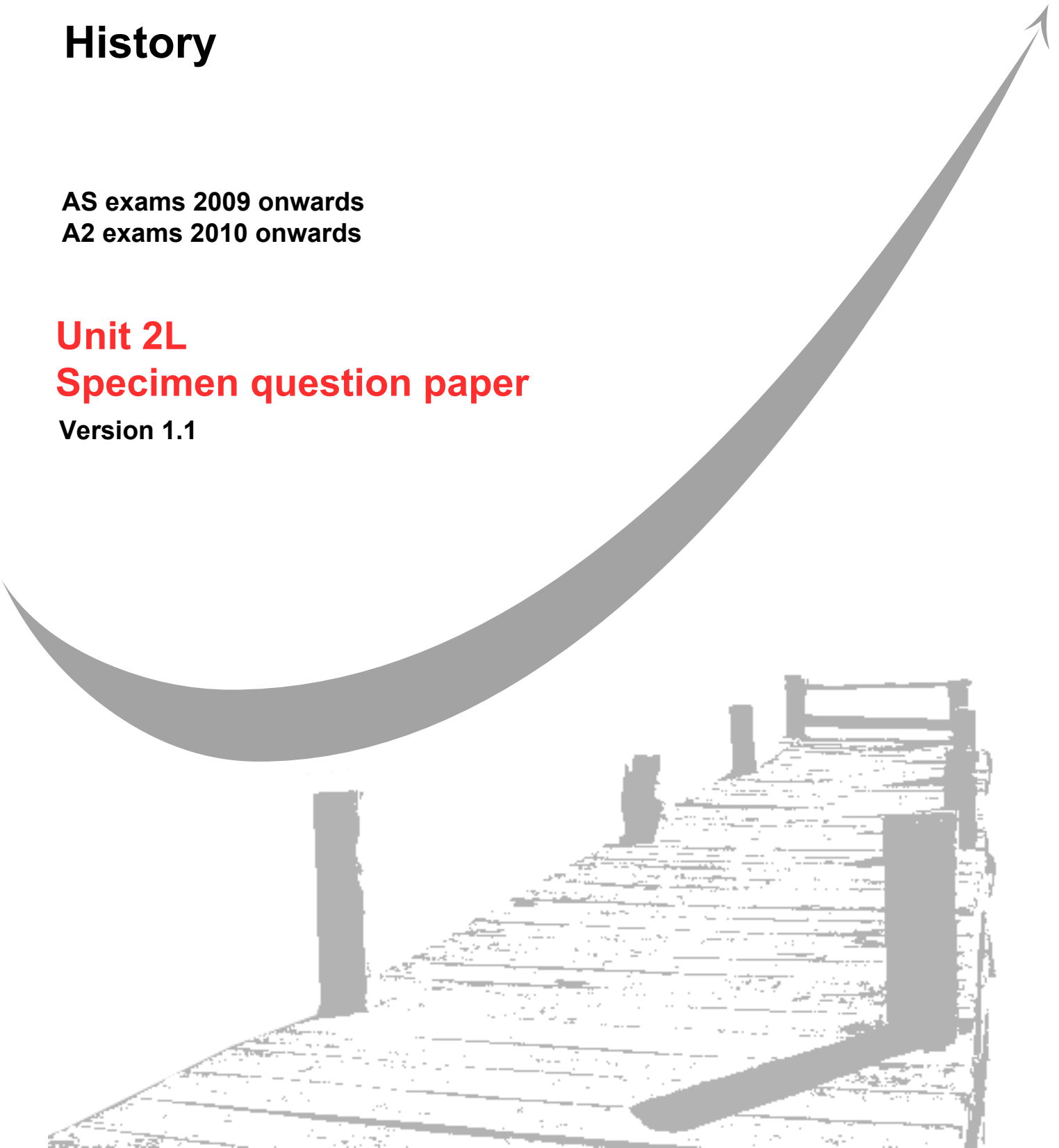
# History

**AS exams 2009 onwards**  
**A2 exams 2010 onwards**

## **Unit 2L**

### **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



**HISTORY**

**HIS2L**

**Unit 2**

**The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924–1941**

<DAY>

<TIME>

**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 maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

**HIS2L**

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

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

**Source A** Adapted from a Soviet school textbook, published in 1976. The textbook states that collective farming made the peasants' lives better owing to improved technology and improved education.

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**Source B** Adapted from letters written in 1930 and 1931 and collected by Victor Serge, a member of the Left Opposition who was expelled from the Soviet Communist Party in the 1920s.

The collective farmers have received no pay for two months. Half the revenue goes to the farm treasury, the other half for taxes and rent. What remains for the workers? The poor wear out their clothes, and the collective farmers assert that a 'new serfdom' is being created. The peasants have no incentive to work. They have reacted to the forced collectivisation by selling their possessions, sabotaging the work and revolting. The peasants rightly say: 'The Army is well fed and well dressed. It will not support us.'

**Source C** Statistics on the results of collectivisation (adapted from Soviet sources)

|                                | 1928  | 1930  | 1932 | 1935 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Grain harvest (million tons)   | 73.3  | 83.5  | 69.6 | 75.0 |
| Cattle (million head)          | 70.5  | 52.5  | 40.7 | 49.3 |
| Pigs (million head)            | 26.0  | 13.6  | 11.6 | 22.6 |
| Sheep and goats (million head) | 146.7 | 108.8 | 52.1 | 61.1 |

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

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** on the impact of collectivisation. (12 marks)

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

How far did the policy of collectivisation meet Stalin's objectives by the end of the 1930s? (24 marks)

**EITHER 2**

- (a) Explain why the Great Terror was carried out in the USSR in the years 1934 to 1939. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'By 1941, the results of the Great Terror had fully met Stalin's aims in implementing it.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR 3**

- (a) Explain why a series of industrial plans was launched in the USSR in the years 1928 to 1938. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The Five-Year Plans resulted in remarkable industrial growth.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this judgement. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source B: V SERGE, *From Lenin to Stalin*, Pathfinder Press, 1973. © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

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