



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2010

## History

## HIS2L

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

Wednesday 20 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**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.
- 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.

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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** An account of collectivisation in Russia by Maurice Hindus, a left-wing American journalist who visited Russia in 1930

The disappearance of individual ownership of land, the coming of large-scale industrialised farming, the collapse of the village, the rise of rural townships, the growing sophistication of the peasant women, the collapse of religion and the transformation of the family – these are unmistakable signs of the approaching  
5 civilisation in the Russian village. As the collective farm strengthens, so these changes will strengthen.

**Source B** An account of collectivisation from a Soviet history book published in 1981

The alliance between the workers and the peasants guaranteed the successful transformation of agriculture along socialist lines. The output of marketable grain had almost doubled. Far-reaching social changes occurred in the wake of economic transformation. The change from small-holding, backward peasant  
5 farming to large-scale socialist agriculture opened up the economic and cultural progress of the Soviet peasantry. But some over-enthusiastic officials forced peasants into joining giant collective farms which were unmanageable. Some middle peasants were mistakenly lumped together with kulaks. Many peasants, with their traditional small-owner mentality, were psychologically unprepared to  
10 become members of collective farms, and even when they did join them, they continued to waver.

**Source C** No one challenges the view that grain deliveries to the state rose after 1928. Controversy centres on agriculture's contribution to the Five-Year Plans. One interpretation is that collectivisation provided the means for rapid industrialisation: collective and state farms supplied cheap grain for export and fed the expanding  
5 urban population. Another interpretation is that collectivisation damaged industrial modernisation, because capital, for example substantial amounts of machinery, flowed from town to country, not from country to town. Peasant households used cash earned in collective farm markets to buy consumer products, thus depriving urban workers. A third interpretation is that collectivisation  
10 reduced food output to below the 1928 level, resulting in overall reductions in output.

Adapted from C WARD, *Stalin's Russia*, 1993

- (a) 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 impact of collectivisation. *(12 marks)*

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

How far, by 1941, had the Soviet economy benefited from changes in Soviet agricultural policy since 1928? *(24 marks)*

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Explain why, at the time of Lenin's death in 1924, there was no obvious successor to lead the USSR. *(12 marks)*

- (b) 'The weaknesses of the Left Opposition were responsible for Stalin's victory in the Soviet leadership battle by 1929.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Explain why, in the mid-1920s, Stalin promoted the policy of 'Socialism in One Country'. *(12 marks)*

- (b) 'By 1941, Stalinism dominated all aspects of Soviet life.'  
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: Adapted from C WARD, *Stalin's Russia*, Arnold, 1993. Reproduced by permission of Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd.

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