



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2011

History

HIS2L

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

Thursday 20 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 Adapted from secret police reports of peasant complaints and questions at village meetings in the Soviet Union in the late-1920s

- Why is there no freedom of speech?
- What did the Revolution do for the peasants?
- What was the aim of NEP and what has it achieved?
- Why is a peasant who owns two cows considered a kulak?
- 5 When we achieve socialism, will there be one cow, two cows, several cows or no cows at all?
- How long are you going to torture the peasantry?
- When will Soviet power stop ruining peasant agriculture?
- What happened to your promises?

Source B Adapted from a Soviet school textbook, published in 1976, about the introduction of collectivisation in the 1920s

- Only large-scale farming could provide the population with enough food. Peasants joined collective farms on a purely voluntary basis. Some were doubtful, but gradually came to realise that only by working together on land which they owned would they do away with their backwardness and poverty. The kulaks fought against
- 5 the collectives. At one village meeting, a factory worker who was also a Party activist had come from the city to start up a collective. He promised: 'We workers will help you and send you tractors and other machines.' Somebody shouted: 'We don't want a collective!' However, others shouted back: 'Shut up!' Somebody else asked: 'What about the kulaks?' The worker said: 'The kulak is an enemy of the collective.'

Source C Collectivisation had always been the Party's long-term objective. Large scale mechanised, collectivised farms would promote more efficient agriculture, releasing labour for the industrialisation drive. Collectivisation and modernisation would create a socialist peasantry and destroy capitalist values. An attack on the class

- 5 representatives of capitalism – the kulaks – was necessary to discredit the right-wing NEP agenda. Collectivisation was the fulfilment of Bolshevik ideals through a process driven by Stalin's personal political agenda and the enthusiasm of urban party activists, and carried out using the quickest and most effective methods. These methods eventually undermined the broader ideals.

Adapted from M SANDLE, *A Short History of Soviet Socialism*, 1999

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 attitudes towards the Soviet regime in the late 1920s. *(12 marks)*

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

How successful was collectivisation in creating socialism in the Soviet countryside by 1941? *(24 marks)*

EITHER

Question 2

0 3 Explain why, in the years 1924 to 1929, the Right Opposition was unable to prevent Stalin's rise to power. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'Stalin's power in the 1930s relied on his use of terror.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

Question 3

0 5 Explain why many Party members were dissatisfied with developments in Soviet industry during the New Economic Policy. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'The Five-Year Plans had failed to create a successful industrial economy in the USSR by 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 A: Original source from 'Pervyeburg v Sovety' (March 1925), F17, OP16, Document 175, as quoted in V BROVSKIN, *Russia after Lenin*, Routledge, 1998

Question 1 Source C: M SANDLE, *A Short History of Soviet Socialism*, p235, UCL Press, 1999

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