

A-level HISTORY

Component 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1H.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Extract A

The Russian economy was certainly in need of rescue in 1921, but by 1924 it had already begun to revive. From 1924, industrial reconstruction proved rapid and recovery was even more marked in agriculture. Further change from 1928 set new priorities and by 1932 the regime could boast some real achievements. Gross industrial production actually surpassed the targets set by the first five-year plan and the value of machinery more than quadrupled. These were impressive results and while the industrialisation drive continued unrelentingly, agriculture was also transformed as peasants were brought under administrative control and collectives established. The greatest economic spurt occurred during the three good years of 1934–36. Thereafter, investments were channelled into armaments, but although agriculture lagged behind, with a major crop failure in 1936, the Soviet economy was in a strong position on the eve of war. By 1941 the USSR had closed the gap with the West and Stalin's forced pace of industrialisation would undoubtedly contribute mightily to Soviet victory.

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Adapted from GL Freeze, *Russia: A History*, 1997

Extract B

After the failure of the NEP which had only managed to restore agricultural and industrial production to its 1913 level by 1928, the first three five-year plans increased industrial output considerably. This was because they brought many new resources, including the labour of former peasants, into the industrial system and used the powers of the state to direct those resources into a few chosen areas. All other aspects of the economy were downplayed or neglected: agriculture, housing, retail trade, services and consumer industries. This could not last: even industrial workers needed those neglected sectors of the economy, without which their work and lives suffered. Even some heavy industries – chemical and electric, for example, were relatively neglected with damaging cumulative effects. The problem was that the planned economy was not really 'planned' at all. Construction projects were launched before anyone knew whether they could be completed, or if they would be needed when they were. Russia's seemingly impressive economic development of the 1930s was lop-sided and unsustainable.

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Adapted from G Hosking, *Russia and the Russians*, 2001

Extract C

The NEP, permitting small-scale capitalism after 1921, proved successful and was popular with workers and peasants, but it was ideologically unsound. Capitalism had to be destroyed by a state-led industrialisation drive. However, this could only be achieved through high levels of economic coercion directed at the ordinary workers and farmers and it worked far better in theory than in practice. Coordinating planning and meeting targets could only be achieved by imposing harsh penalties. There are numerous examples of over-optimistic planning which created a constant tension between planners and producers. The pressure to meet targets meant that every failure was liable to be interpreted as an act of economic sabotage. What on paper appeared an effortless statistical picture of growth was, in practice, a constant cycle of crisis and undisguised militaristic coercion. By 1941 Stalin's Soviet Union had a record of extraordinary violence against the very men and women, in factories and fields, who struggled to put the economic plans into reality.

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Adapted from R Overy, *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's Russia*, 2004

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the development of the Soviet economy in the years 1921 to 1941.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'By 1881, the emancipation of the serfs had brought profound social change in Russia.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 How effective was the opposition of radical and liberal groups in challenging the authority of the Tsar in the years 1894 to 1914?

[25 marks]

0 4 'There were more similarities than differences between Stalin and Khrushchev as Soviet leaders.'

Assess the validity of this view of the years 1941 to 1964.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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