

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

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Friday 9 June 2023

Afternoon

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 7042/2L.
- 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**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From the war memoirs of an army officer, Ardengo Soffici, published 1919. Soffici was a Nationalist and supported the war. He witnessed the defeat at Caporetto in 1917.

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**Source B**

From an article by Benito Mussolini, published in his newspaper, 'Il Popolo D'Italia', 15 December 1917. This was after the defeat at Caporetto.

What an immense moral force is contained in the patriotic spirit of the soldiers who return from Caporetto. The disabled veterans today are the first of the great Italian army to return. They await the homecoming of their brothers-in-arms: millions of demobilised soldiers. This enormous mass of men is bound to cause shifts in the balance of our society. The brutal and bloody training of the trenches will mean more courage, more faith, and more determination. The old parties and the old men who, in the future, carry on as if nothing has happened, will be swept aside. We observe with contempt everything which is said and done by the old windbags who govern us. The Italy of today has been created in the trenches at Caporetto. The millions of workers who return from the trenches will realise the importance of class and nation. Our movement is gathering together the soldiers' passions, and we will be with them to see that the highest justice is done.

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**Source C**

From 'Memoirs of My Life' by Giovanni Giolitti, published 1923. In 1915 Giolitti was against the war but after Caporetto he returned to parliament to support the Liberal government.

Caporetto was a great misfortune, but it served to awaken in the whole country a sense of the gravity of the situation and the necessity for facing it in a spirit of strict discipline. An improvement set in, not only in public morale but also in the army, with the replacement of General Cardona by General Diaz as supreme commander. Cardona had launched the unworthy accusation of cowardice against our soldiers after their two and a half years of exemplary self-denial and cruel sacrifices. The effect of the changed method in treating the soldiers was seen in the great victory of Vittorio Veneto. This victory signified the definite overthrow of the Austrian army and the destruction of the empire of the Habsburgs. And when this end came, no one rejoiced more than I, who had clearly foreseen the frightful consequences which the war would have had for Italy had it not terminated in a complete and definite victory.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the impact of the defeat at Caporetto for Italy.

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

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2**

To what extent was the successful establishment of the Fascist state, in the years 1922 to 1929, due to the appeal of Fascist ideology?

**[25 marks]****0 3**

To what extent was Mussolini committed to peace in Europe in the years 1933 to 1938?

**[25 marks]****0 4**

'The most important reason for the collapse of Fascism in Italy was the weaknesses of Mussolini's Salò Republic in the years 1943 to 1945.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS****Copyright information**

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