

# AS HISTORY

## Italy & Fascism, c1900–1926

Paper 2L

---

### ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes

#### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **2L**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03

#### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
-

---

**Section A****Answer Question 01**

---

**Source A**

From Mussolini's first speech to the Chamber of Deputies as Prime Minister, 16 November 1922

Gentlemen! What I am doing now in this hall is an act of formal respect to you, for which I ask no special sign of gratitude. I could have abused my victory, but I refused to do so. I imposed limits on myself. I told myself that the better wisdom is that which does not lose control of itself after victory. With 300 000 armed youths armed to the teeth, fully determined and almost mystically ready to act on any command of mine, I could have punished all those who criticised and tried to harm Fascism. I could have barred the doors of parliament and formed a government exclusively of Fascists. I could have done so; but I chose not to, at least for the present. I have formed a coalition government, not indeed with the object of gaining a parliamentary majority, but in order to rally the support of all those who wish to save this nation.

**Source B**

From Luigi Sturzo, **Italy and Fascism**, 1926 Sturzo was leader of the Italian People's Party (Popolari) from 1919 to 1923

The non-Fascists whom Mussolini asked to join the government had to face a serious crisis of conscience in 1922. If they refused, they ran the risk of inciting the man, who believed himself a victor, to return to a system of violence. In these circumstances, a coalition government might seem an attempt at pacification. Some thought that the collaboration of constitutionalists might counter-balance the triumph of the Fascist armed faction. Others, including myself, opposed any understandings with the new government. However, among the Popolari, as among the Liberals and Social-Democrats, the opinion prevailed that they had better collaborate with Mussolini, in the hope that, having attained power, he and his friends would tread the path of law and order and respect for liberty.

0	1
---	---

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the political situation in Italy following Mussolini's appointment as Prime Minister?

**[25 marks]**

---

**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

---

**EITHER**

0	2
---	---

‘Italy was a politically stable state during the years of Giolitti, 1903 to 1914.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**OR**

0	3
---	---

‘Fear of Communism was the main factor in the collapse of Italian democracy in the years 1919 to 1922.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS**

Question 1 Source B: David & Charles Italy from the Risorgimento to Fascism: L Sturzo, Italy and Fascism, 1971 Faber and Faber

Permission to reproduce all copyright has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.