

## B5: THE WORLD AT WAR, 1938-45

### SOURCES (A) TO (F) FOR QUESTION 5

**SOURCE A:** A map showing the German invasion of the Soviet Union.



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**SOURCE B:** From a school textbook about the history of the Soviet Union in the twentieth century, published in Britain in 1991.

The Nazi-Soviet pact was fragile and likely to break down when it suited either of the parties. There is no evidence that Stalin was preparing a war against Germany. It seems more likely that Hitler's long term hatred of Bolshevism and wish to gain Lebensraum (living space) played the key role in his decision to attack the Soviet Union.

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**SOURCE C:** From a book about International Relations, published in Britain in 1997.

On 22 June 1941, Germany made a surprise attack on the Soviet Union. Operation Barbarossa was a three pronged attack on the cities of Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad. The plan would lead to the destruction of the Soviet Union and would give Germany access to wheatfields of the Ukraine and the oilfields of the Caucasus. Germany would also gain living-space.

**SOURCE D:** From the diary of General Halder, August 1941. Halder was one of the German commanders leading the German invasion.

We have underestimated the Russian giant. At the start of the war, we reckoned that we would face about 200 enemy divisions. Now we have already counted 360. Time favours the Russians. They are near their own resources and we are moving farther away from ours. Our troops are spread out over an immense line and are subjected to the enemy's constant attacks.

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**SOURCE E:** A photograph showing Soviet troops in action against the Germans in 1941.



**SOURCE F:** From Stalin's radio broadcast to the Soviet people at the time of the German invasion, June 1941.

The enemy is cruel. They are out to seize our lands, our grain and oil. They are out to restore the role of landlords, to turn our people into slaves of Germany. If we are forced to retreat, the enemy must not be left a single engine, a single pound of grain or a gallon of fuel. All valuable property including grain and fuel that cannot be withdrawn must be destroyed without fail. In areas occupied by the enemy, guerrillas must be formed, sabotage groups must be organised to combat the enemy by blowing up bridges and roads.

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