

MIKHAIL  
GORBACHEV  
COURSEWORK  
ASSIGNMENTS

## GCSE HISTORY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

### **Teacher Information**

#### ***Introduction:***

These assignments comprise sources, questions and mark schemes which will enable your pupils to fulfil the coursework requirements in history for Edexcel Foundation specifications for first examination in summer 2003. You may use these assignments as they stand. They have been designed to assess the full range of grades targeted by the syllabus (Grades G-A\*). Assistance may be given in class to aid the comprehension of the sources.

You may also adapt these assignments if wished by:

- providing additional or replacement sources
- providing additional or replacement questions.

However, if you wish to make changes you should submit these to the Edexcel Foundation for approval to ensure that revised sources or questions give candidates appropriate opportunity to meet the targets specified at the appropriate level.

#### ***Management of the assignment:***

The assignment has been designed to accommodate some flexibility of classroom practice. The following points should be borne in mind:

- Although all the questions *may* be tackled as part of a single task, this is not necessary. The timing of individual questions within an assignment may be staggered over a period of time and integrated into the programme of study.
- Candidates may use the sources provided in the pack as part of their preparation for Assignment 1 but this is not a requirement.
- Your candidates should draw upon their contextual knowledge when using the sources for Assignment 2. The historical content listed below should be familiar to candidates before they attempt to answer the questions.

# Mikhail Gorbachev

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This assignment should arise from a teaching programme designed to occupy approximately half a term. Before candidates begin this assignment they should have knowledge of:

- The career of Mikhail Gorbachev to 1985
- Events in the Soviet Union in the early 1980s
- The state of the Soviet economy in 1985.

## Introduction

Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union in 1985. He soon realised that the country was in a desperate economic situation which he attempted to remedy by swift and drastic actions. He reached arms agreements with the West within a few years and allowed the countries of Eastern Europe and the republics of the Soviet Union to break away from Soviet control. But his attempts to save the Soviet Union failed completely.

Why did Mikhail Gorbachev decide to take such dramatic actions? Why did attempts to save the Soviet Union fail so completely? These are some of the questions that you will be answering when you tackle this assignment.

**SOURCE A: part of an article in The Sunday Times, 27<sup>th</sup> December 1987**

Much more important is the change in attitude that Gorbachev has brought in the minds of the people of the West. Who would have imagined a year ago that a book written by a Kremlin leader would be a best seller in the Capitalist world.

At home the changes are even more remarkable. Russian can now think freely. They can emigrate. They can see and read plays, films and novels that were once banned.

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**SOURCE B: part of an article in The Independent, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1987**

Mr Gorbachev is a magnetic figure who has caught the imagination of the world. The world has responded by sending camera crews of correspondents in their thousands to his country, now more open to inspection than at any time in its history.

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**SOURCE C: a photograph of Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife in a street in Germany in 1989**



**SOURCE D: part of a book written by Boris Yeltsin describing life in the Soviet Union in the 1970s**

Each salesperson was obliged to overcharge the customer and hand a certain sum each day to his or her supervisor, who kept part of it for himself and gave part to the general manager of the store. Then the money was shared out among the management, from top to bottom.

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**SOURCE E: part of a book written by Vladimir Bukovsky, who had been a political prisoner in the Soviet Union. He is describing the Soviet Union in the 1970s and early 1980s**

Whole businesses would be beavering away, while the profits were siphoned off into the private pockets of deputy ministers and the management. And the opposite also occurred. Entire industrial complexes existed only on paper, but appeared in plans and were allocated funds by the state, whereas their sites were occupied by virgin forest or an expanse of steppe

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**SOURCE F: part of a book written about the Soviet Union in the 1990s**

Nikolai Shchekolov, the Minister of the Interior, stole 700,000 roubles from state funds. When his ministry took delivery of nine German cars, he appropriated five of them for himself, his wife, his son, daughter and daughter-in-law. In Georgia, the First Secretary, Vasily Mzhavanadze, auctioned jobs, and pocketed bids. His wife, Tamara, was a byword for jewellery and antiques.

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**SOURCE G: figures published by the Soviet government**

	<b>1988</b>
Number of state businesses in existence	46,000
Number of state businesses operating at a loss	24,000

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**SOURCE H: estimates produced by the Soviet government in the late 1980s**

Percentage of the economy on the black market	15%
Percentage of workers drunk at any one time	10%

**SOURCE I: part of the soundtrack of a television programme of 1987 about the Soviet Union**

If you want to find the real meaning of Perestroika you have to hear the rock music which the State has at last begun to encourage. All of this activity is being authorised from the top, agreed to by the man in the Kremlin, Gorbachev. The question really is what happens after Gorbachev goes and how long has he got.

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**SOURCE J: a photograph of Boris Yeltsin taken in front of the Russian Parliament during an attempted coup in August 1991**



**SOURCE K: part of a speech made by Alexander Yakovlev, an adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev, in 1995**

It seemed to us that all we had to do was remove some of the brakes, free it all up and it would all start working. There was a good engine there. We went under this illusion for two years. But when we began to make radical changes we came up against the resistance of the system. From that moment it began to be said that the system is unreformable, the Communist Party is unreformable.

### **Assignment One: Objective 1**

1. Describe the problems facing Mikhail Gorbachev when he became the leader of the Soviet Union in March 1985. (15)
2. In what ways did Mikhail Gorbachev attempt to tackle the problems faced by the Soviet Union? (15)
3. Why was Mikhail Gorbachev unable to save the Soviet Union? (20)

### Assignment One: Objective 2 and 3

1. Study Source A

What can you learn from Source A about the impact of Gorbachev's policies?

(6)

2. Study Sources A, B and C

Does the evidence of Source C support the evidence of Sources A and B about the impact of Gorbachev's policies? Explain your answer.

(8)

3. Study Source D and E

How useful are Sources D and E in helping you to understand the problems that Mikhail Gorbachev faced in the Soviet Union?

(10)

4. Study Sources F and G

Use the Sources, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Soviet economy was in such a bad way.

(12)

5. Study all of the sources

'The main reason why Gorbachev was unable to save the Soviet Union was that he had too little time.'

Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain whether you agree with this view.

(14)



## Coursework Assignments Mark Scheme

### Mikhail Gorbachev

#### Assignment One: Objective 1

1. *Describe the problems facing Mikhail Gorbachev when he became the leader of the Soviet Union in March 1985.* (15)

#### Target: Key features/recall of knowledge AO1

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. the Soviet Union was bankrupt, corruption, the Afghan War etc. (1-5)

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. details of corruption, numbers of businesses at a loss, subsidies for agriculture, lack of technology etc. (6-10)

**Level 3:** Developed exposition supported by selected knowledge, e.g. links problems to the command economy which had not changed since Stalin's day, lack of initiative and incentive, poor quality of goods etc. (11-15)

2. *In what ways did Mikhail Gorbachev attempt to tackle the problems faced by the Soviet Union?* (15)

#### Target: Key features/recall of knowledge AO1

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. perestroika and glasnost, the free market, openness etc. (1-5)

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. describes reforms, competition in industry, tried to get financial help from the West in exchange for arms reductions, abolished hold of the Communist Party etc. (6-10)

**Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge, e.g. believed that problem was the command economy, tried to encourage initiative and competition, stopped subsidies of industry and satellites etc. (10-15)

3. *Why was Mikhail Gorbachev unable to save the Soviet Union?* (20)

**Target: Causation/recall of knowledge AO1**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. problems too serious, too little too late etc. (1-5)

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. worked too quickly, did not realise the impact of changes, did not realise that giving some freedom would encourage people to demand more etc. (6-10)

**Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge, e.g. making links between factors, he was a communist and wanted to preserve the Soviet Union, therefore would not make wholesale changes, wanted to make limited changes but did not realise that he could not stop etc. (11-15)

**Level 4:** Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge, e.g. did not understand the state of the problems until he became leader, had to work fast but had no overall plan of action etc. (16-20)

## Coursework Assignments Mark Scheme

### Mikhail Gorbachev

#### Assignment Two: Objective 2 and 3

##### 1. Study Source A

*What can you learn from Source A about the impact of Gorbachev's policies?*

**(6)**

##### **Target: Comprehension of a source**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge taking the source at face value, e.g. he has brought changes, Russians are allowed to think etc.

**(1-3)**

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge making inferences from the source, pointing out the weaknesses of the source or setting the source in context, e.g. he has changed the perception of the Soviet union in the eyes of the West etc

**(4-6)**

##### 2. Study Sources A, B and C

*Does the evidence of Source C support the evidence of Sources A and B about the impact of Gorbachev's policies? Explain your answer.*

**(8)**

##### **Target: Cross referencing and evaluation of sources AO2**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge taking the sources at face value, e.g. he is very popular in all three sources etc.

**(1-3)**

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge making inferences from the sources, pointing out the weaknesses of the sources or setting the source in context, e.g. people want to find out about him, there is a great deal of interest in him in the West etc.

**(4-6)**

**Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge and making positive use of the nature, origin and purpose of the sources, e.g. he was even mobbed in Germany, where Soviet leaders were traditionally unpopular, he has allowed the West and western influence into the Soviet Union in an effort to save it etc.

**(7-8)**

3. *Study Source D and E*

*How useful are Sources D and E in helping you to understand the problems that Mikhail Gorbachev faced in the Soviet Union?*

*(10)*

**Target: Analysis and evaluation of sources to assess utility AO2**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge taking the sources at face value, e.g. there was a great deal of corruption, people cheated etc.

**(1-3)**

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge making inferences from the sources, pointing out the weaknesses of the sources e.g. Bukovsky was a known opponent; Yeltsin a CP member etc.

**(4-6)**

**Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge and making positive use of the nature, origin and purpose of the sources, e.g. Boris Yeltsin later opposed Gorbachev; etc.

**(7-10)**

#### 4. Study Sources F and G

*Use the Sources, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Soviet economy was in such a bad way.*

(12)

#### **Target: Analysis and interpretation of sources/recall of knowledge AO2**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge taking the sources at face value, e.g. money was being embezzled, many businesses were running at a loss etc.

(1-3)

**Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge making inferences from the sources, pointing out the weaknesses of the sources or setting the sources in context, e.g. the scale of the problem was immense, more than 50% of factories were making a loss, a minister could simply take five cars out of nine etc.

(4-6)

**Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge and making positive use of the nature, origin and purpose of sources, e.g. the figures in G were published by the Soviet government, the real situation might have been considerable worse etc.

(7-10)

**Level 4:** Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge and using the sources as evidence, e.g. a very large proportion of the state's expenditure went on subsidies, these were easy to embezzle, Communist Party members were clearly immoral and this would be very difficult to root out at the same time as reforms were being introduced etc.

(11-12)

#### 5. Study all of the sources

*'The main reason why Gorbachev was unable to save the Soviet Union was that he had too little time.'*

(14)

#### **Target: Analysis of interpretation of events/recall of knowledge AO3**

**Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge taking the sources at face value supporting or opposing the view, e.g. yes he had to act quickly because the situation was very serious etc.

(1-3)

- Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge making inferences from the sources, supporting or opposing the view, e.g. he only found out the real situation in March 1985, he had no real plan he had to make it up as he went along etc. (4-6)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge and making positive use of the nature, origin and purpose of sources to support or oppose the view, e.g. the sources from the Soviet government and from Communist Party members show that the situation could not be disguised, it was probably much worse, 35% of the budget was going on food subsidies etc. (7-11)
- Level 4:** Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge and using the sources as evidence to assess the view and compare it with alternative views, e.g. Gorbachev did not attempt real reforms, he was a communist trying to save the Soviet Union, he was unable to purge the Communist Party, he was never as popular in the Soviet Union as he was abroad etc. (12-14)