

HRES 6176

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Russian and East European Studies

HEALTH AND WELFARE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND RUSSIA

TRINITY TERM 2007

Wednesday 13 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

1. To what extent was the Soviet social safety net successful in meeting the needs of the elderly?
2. 'The Soviet medical system functioned as a low-priority institution in a shortage economy.' Do you agree?
3. How serious was the problem of childhood poverty in the USSR?
4. Compare the official Soviet interpretation of health and welfare in the Soviet Union with that of one alternative theoretical model of the USSR.
5. How successful were the reforms of the medical system during *Perestroika*?
6. EITHER
(a) What were the causes of rising mortality rates in the Soviet period?

OR
(b) 'The mortality crisis in Russia in the 1990s was a social problem related to stress, rather than a medical problem related to the deterioration of the health service.'
Discuss.
7. Assess the extent to which economic transition in Russia in the 1990s increased poverty and inequality.
8. Did the federal and regional governments in Russia implement effective policies to prevent the development of an HIV/AIDS epidemic during the period 1995-2004?
9. Evaluate the main flaws of the compulsory health insurance reform in Russia and their consequences.
10. Do the Russian health and welfare systems provide adequate support for women?

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