

**TRES 6139
JRES 6139**

**QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY
AND
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE**

Russian and East European Studies

**TWENTIETH CENTURY RUSSIAN, SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN
HISTORY**

TRINITY TERM 2007

Monday 11 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. Did the Bolsheviks betray their pre-October promises in the early years after the October Revolution?
2. Was Soviet foreign policy determined by pragmatism EITHER (a) under Stalin OR (b) under Gorbachëv?
3. Why was EITHER (a) religion OR (b) culture so sensitive a matter for the Soviet authorities?
4. To what degree did groups and individuals deflect the demands of the central party authorities in the Soviet Union? You may, if you wish, confine your answer to a particular period.
5. Assess the historiography on the origins of the Great Terror.
6. Was the USSR a Russian empire?
7. Was the Stalinist economic strategy a success?
8. To what degree was communism adapted to local circumstances in eastern Europe in 1945-1953? You may, if you wish, confine your answer to a single country.
9. Was Khrushchëv a genuine reformer?
10. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for the rulers in maintaining the Soviet one-party system. You may, if you wish, confine your answer to a particular period.
11. Why did communism collapse in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s?
12. To what extent are the failures of *perestroika* to reform state and society in the USSR attributable to mistakes by politicians?

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