



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

History

HIS2L

Unit 2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924–1941

Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2L.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Adapted from a leaflet written by two young Moscow physicists in 1938

The October Revolution has been shamefully betrayed. The country is awash with blood and filth. Millions of innocent people have been thrown into prison. The economy is disintegrating. Stalin's gang has carried out a fascist coup. Socialism remains only in the pages of the lying press. Stalin is destroying the country in order
5 to preserve his own power. Organise yourselves, Comrades! Don't be afraid of the NKVD butchers. They are only capable of beating up defenceless prisoners, seizing innocent people and holding ludicrous trials for non-existent conspiracies. Stalinist fascism endures only because we are not organised. The proletariat, which overthrew the tsar, can overthrow the fascist dictator Stalin and his gang.

Source B From the memoirs of V Molotov (published in 1993). Molotov was Soviet Prime Minister and a member of the Politburo in the 1930s

Let us assume Stalin made mistakes: but name someone who made fewer mistakes. Given all the shortcomings of the leadership, Stalin alone coped with the tasks confronting the country. Stalin was a very blunt person. But without Stalin's harshness, I don't know how much good would have been accomplished and there
5 would have been even greater hesitation and lack of determination. Bear in mind that after the Revolution, various enemies survived. As we were faced by the growing danger of Nazi aggression, the enemies might have united. Stalin followed a correct line: let innocent heads roll, but there will be no wavering. The Terror was necessary, and could not have been completed without mistakes.
10 The alternative was to carry the internal political debates into the war years. I do not consider the 1920s and 1930s a bloody time.

Source C All the achievements in constructing socialism were wrongly credited to Stalin's personal leadership. This was a mistake, as the crucial part played by the Soviet people and the Communist Party was thus pushed into the background. Stalin's personality cult was exploited by some ambitious politicians who infiltrated the
5 highest ranks of the state security organisations. They then falsely accused many honest Party and government leaders and subjected them to totally undeserved repression.

Adapted from Y KUKUSHKIN, *History of the USSR: An Outline of Socialist Construction*, 1981

0 1 Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Stalin's Terror in the 1930s. *(12 marks)*

0 2 Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the Terror in strengthening Stalin's leadership within the USSR in the years 1934 to 1941? *(24 marks)*

EITHER

Question 2

0 3 Explain why there was no agreed successor to Lenin in 1924. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'Stalin became leader of the USSR by 1929 because neither the Right nor the Left in the Communist Party had shown themselves capable of winning power.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

Question 3

0 5 Explain why many peasants resisted the collectivisation of agriculture. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'By 1941, collectivisation had greatly strengthened the USSR.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: Quoted in E ACTON & T STABLEFORD (eds.), *The Soviet Union: A Documentary History, Vol.1: 1917–1941*, University of Exeter Press, 2005.

Question 1 Source B: Quoted in P BOOBYER, *The Stalin Era*, Routledge, 2000.

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