

AS HISTORY

Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

Component 2L The crisis of Liberal Italy and the Rise of Mussolini, c1900–1926

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2L.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From recollections of Ivance Bonomi, commenting on unrest in northern Italy in 1920/21. Bonomi was a moderate socialist, who was briefly prime minister in 1922, and again in 1944.

After the violence in Bologna in November 1920, the rural propertied classes were stirred to action. Young officers who had served at the front summoned their landowning friends and relatives and told them they needed to defend themselves against those who had opposed the war and now rejected the victory, against those who were inciting violence and disorder. A spirit of battle hovered over the countryside. During patriotic ceremonies, the men of order no longer remained firmly indoors, frightened of violence, but displayed the national flag and went into the piazzas to cheer. The slogans on the walls were not now just communist ones. Alongside the numerous cries of 'Long Live Lenin!' were others celebrating the Fatherland and victory.

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Source B

From 'Sawdust Caesar: the Untold Story of Mussolini and Fascism' by George Seldes, published in 1936. The author was a liberal American journalist, who knew Mussolini personally.

In the summer of 1920, the industrial and agrarian bourgeoisie were still scared and distrustful, desperate in the face of the menace of the seizure of factories by the workers and consequently, they immediately accepted the Fascisti as their military weapon. The General Confederation of Industry openly began paying money to Mussolini and his militia. Immediately the deal was made, Mussolini turned the threat of the Fascisti away from attacking the warehouses, the factories and the big businessmen he had been threatening with hanging on lamp-posts, and directed the Fascist squads against the Socialists. From that day on bloodshed increased throughout Italy.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the political unrest in Italy in the years 1919 to 1921?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2 'Giolitti failed to overcome political instability in Italy in the years 1903 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'The key to Mussolini's successful consolidation of power in the years 1922 to 1926 was his personal popularity with the Italian people.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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