

A-level HISTORY

Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/2L.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From 'Inside Europe' by John Gunther, an American journalist who travelled widely around Europe. His book was first published in 1936.

Mussolini needed room – colonies – for Italy to expand in. But his habit of bluster had persuaded folk in Western Europe that he was bluffing. Why did he choose 1935 for the adventure he had long foretold? And why did he pick Abyssinia?

The climate of Fascism was high and adventurous. Like all dictators, Mussolini was a 'prisoner of prestige'. He had to keep on doing something. Hitler was stealing too much attention from him in world headlines. Mussolini was personally a warrior and imperialist; he talked of imperialism as the eternal law of life. Every rational, objective consideration told Mussolini (a strikingly intelligent man) that the Abyssinian war was a difficult and dangerous business. But Mussolini ignored this; an interesting example of the importance of personality, even megalomania, in politics. The Duce was not alarmed by the pessimistic reports from his experts on Abyssinia. He knew what its chief crop was – glory.

Source B

From 'Long Live Spain!', a marching song of Italian Fascist soldiers fighting in the Spanish Civil War.

Hearing the cry of our Spanish brothers; We line up in the assembled ranks
Of the Blackshirt legions; to defend the soil of Spain

Now let the bugle muster us for the attack; Let the cry of battle ring out
With lion-like and furious force; We will hurl ourselves against the enemy

Chorus

Hail Duce, it is for You we fight; We are the legionaries of Fascism
We raise our daggers and through our strength; We want to liberate Spain!

May our arms and hearts never tremble; We are messengers of a new History
We hold our colours aloft and through our courage; We want to save Civilisation

Faith sustains us always; It spurs us on to face any danger
We are the daring bearers; Of the eternal Light of Rome

We want a Fascist Europe; Which wakes oppressed peoples from their sleep
And returns a smile to the face of nations; Tormented by the treacherous Reds.

Source C

From Mussolini's 'Berlin Speech', September 1937. This was given on the occasion of Mussolini's first state visit to Germany.

It is not only as head of the Italian government that I have come among you but, above all, as head of a national revolution who wants to give proof of his unequivocal solidarity with your revolution. Even if the course of the two revolutions has not been the same, the objective they wanted to achieve, and have achieved, is the same: the unity and greatness of the people. Fascism and Nazism are two manifestations of the parallel historical situations which link the life of our nations. 5

My journey to Germany has no hidden agenda. Nothing is being plotted to divide a Europe already sufficiently divided. The solemn reaffirmation of the existence and solidity of the Rome—Berlin Axis is not directed at other States because we, Fascists and Nazis alike, want peace and are always ready to work for peace, for a real and fruitful peace which does not ignore but resolves the problems of the coexistence of peoples. 10

- 0 1** With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Fascist foreign policy in the years 1935 to 1940.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'In 1914, Italy was a stable, prosperous democracy.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent was the successful consolidation of the Fascist regime in the years 1922 to 1929 due to Mussolini's mastery of propaganda?

[25 marks]

0 4 'The strains of the Second World War exposed the complete failure of pre-war Fascist economic policies.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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