

AS HISTORY

Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

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

Wednesday 25 May 2016 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** 02 **or** 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 a speech by Benedetto Croce to the Italian Assembly, September 1945. Croce was a philosopher and member of the Italian Senate from 1910. He became a leading anti-fascist from the mid-1920s.

Before 1922, Italy was one of the most democratic countries in Europe. Italy's development was an uninterrupted and, at times, rapid ascent toward democracy. The Italian masses, which in past times had been left in misery and illiteracy, progressed, not only in their physical health, but also in acquiring the characteristics of 'free citizens'. Those masses were able to organise themselves in their own associations and trade unions, to defend their rights and to gain the right to strike. They obtained laws for the protection of labour and, through the successive expansion made possible by new electoral laws, they achieved votes for all. From this, political parties developed which expressed their ideals.

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Source B

From an essay by Gaetano Salvemini, published in 1945. Salvemini was an historian and socialist politician who was a member of the Italian Parliament from 1919 and a leading opponent of Mussolini from 1925.

Giolitti was an extraordinarily able and skilful parliamentarian. He grasped with extreme shrewdness and lightning rapidity the slightest hint of dissatisfaction among the Chamber of Deputies. But he had little sensitivity for what was going on in the country. Here, dissatisfaction with the 'managing' of elections was steadily growing among the Italian citizens. Giolitti thought he could control the electorate under the system of universal voting as easily as he used to when the franchise was restricted. But when, in 1913, he was confronted with thousands more voters to be 'managed', he was forced to increase the dose of violence to ensure success. He won another of his overwhelming electoral victories but the scandals of that campaign provoked bitter indignation.

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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 system in Italy before 1922?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0 2 'Italy was not a united country in 1900.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'Mussolini consolidated his power in Italy between 1922 and 1926 through violence and intimidation.'

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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