



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## History

## HIS2E

### Unit 2E The Reign of Peter the Great of Russia, 1682–1725

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30pm to 3.00pm

**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 **Paper Reference** is HIS2E.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- 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.

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

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

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

- Source A** Peter called the new city, St Petersburg, after his patron saint, and it became the glory of his reign, his 'paradise', his 'Eden', his 'darling'. In April 1706, he began a letter to his friend Menshikov, 'I cannot help writing to you from this paradise; truly we live here in heaven'. The city came to represent in brick and stone everything important in his life: his escape from the shadowy intrigue, the tiny windows and the vaulted chambers of Moscow; his arrival on the sea; the opening to the technology and culture of Western Europe. Peter loved his creation. Construction of the city became his passion. No obstacle was great enough to prevent his carrying out his design. On it he lavished his energy, millions of roubles and thousands of lives. 5
- Adapted from Robert K Massie, *Peter the Great*, 1982 10

- Source B** Adapted from Prince Mikhail Shcherbatov's reflections on the establishment of St Petersburg in a petition of the City of Moscow, 1787
- Alas! Peter left Moscow. Whether out of necessity, to build a fleet, to create trade and commerce, to direct in person the war then taking place, or out of dislike for Moscow's ancient customs, he transferred his capital to the newly built city bearing his name. Moscow's best citizens left their home city to build new homes in a strange and evil land. Crowds of peasants were sent to cultivate the marshy and infertile soil surrounding St Petersburg. Moscow's buildings fell to ruins and it was forbidden to erect new ones. 5

- Source C** Peter had a vision of meeting the West on equal terms. To meet his aims a new Russia would have to emerge. New customs would have to be adopted: men must shave and wear western clothes; women must emerge from seclusion into polite society. Peter demanded his nobles accept such change and, by and large, they conformed. Russia appeared different with its westernised elite. But this was conformity, not conversion. They lived in St Petersburg by order, though they longed to return to Moscow. That these changes were never abandoned might be seen as a significant success for Peter. Despite the hopes of so many traditionalists, Russia did not return to its old ways. 5

Adapted from John Swift, *Peter the Great*, 2000

**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 St Petersburg.

**[12 marks]**

and

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

How successful was Peter the Great in westernising Russia?

**[24 marks]**

**Either**

**Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the Treaty of Nystadt was signed in 1721.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 4** 'Peter the Great's years of warfare had achieved little for Russia by 1725.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**Or**

**Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the Poll Tax (soul tax) was introduced in 1718.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 6** 'Peter the Great failed to solve Russia's financial and economic problems.'  
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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