



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2015

History

HIS2K

Unit 2K A New Roman Empire? Mussolini's Italy, 1922-1945

Wednesday 20 May 2015 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 **Paper Reference** is HIS2K.
- 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.

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

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

Question 1

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

Source A Many historians believe that the invasion of Abyssinia, the League of Nations sanctions and the Declaration of Empire won Mussolini great popularity among Italians. However, between 1935 and 1943, support for Italian foreign policy developments became compulsory for ordinary Italians. Nearly 20 per cent of political confinement sentences in this period punished Italians for ‘defeatism’ and other criticisms of the Duce’s foreign policy. A common criticism of Mussolini’s Abyssinian invasion emphasised the stupidity of conquering Africa when life remained so bleak in many parts of Italy. Italians in the South, hearing about the abolition of slavery in Abyssinia, suggested that Mussolini should do the same in Italy. Despite the popularity of the Duce’s adventure in Abyssinia, some Italians clearly opposed it. 5
10

Adapted from MR Ebner, *Ordinary Violence in Mussolini’s Italy*, 2011

Source B Adapted from the diary of an Italian soldier serving in Somaliland in October 1935, when the war in Abyssinia broke out.

Is Italy’s aim really to shine light where there is darkness, to civilise Africa, or is it rather to conquer a rich and fertile region? No, I do not consider Italy’s action against Abyssinia justified. It is not justified because an attempt is being made, on this occasion, to conceal behind a mask of humanity what in reality is an act of aggression against an enemy that has only its courage and fury to oppose us with. Therefore, I criticise the behaviour of my nation. Am I a conflicting view in what is – or is said to be – a nation which fully approves of the invasion? Yes. I am not a sheep. My mind is not so blinkered as not to see good and evil. And what we are doing is evil. 5

Source C Mussolini had stated that ‘to govern you need only two things, policemen and bands playing in the streets.’ Fascist Italy relied more on bands than policemen. Thanks to a personality cult, Mussolini remained quite popular. Successes in sports and athletics were attributed to Fascism and widely celebrated. The radio was a means whereby Mussolini’s speeches could reach large audiences, while exploits such as the Abyssinian campaign were publicised in the newsreels and shown with every cinema performance. 5

Adapted from Patricia Knight, *Mussolini and Fascism*, 2003

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 the reactions of the Italian people to the invasion of Abyssinia in October 1935.

[12 marks]

and

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

How important was the use of propaganda in maintaining support for the Fascist regime in the 1920s and 1930s?

[24 marks]

Either

Question 2

0 3 Explain why the Fascist regime wanted to achieve autarky.

[12 marks]

and

0 4 'Fascist economic policy was unsuccessful in the years 1922 to 1939.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

Question 3

0 5 Explain why Mussolini opposed the attempted Nazi seizure of power in Austria in 1934.

[12 marks]

and

0 6 'Mussolini achieved his aims in foreign policy in the years 1922 to 1939.'
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 B: Christopher Duggan, *Fascist Voices: An Intimate History of Mussolini's Italy*, 2013, Vintage with permission of Random House.
Question 1 Source C: Patricia Knight, *Mussolini and Fascism*, 2003, Routledge.

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