



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2015

History

HIS2L

Unit 2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924-1941

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 HIS2L.
- 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 Adapted from statements made by Maria Ulyanova, Lenin's sister, to the Central Committee in 1926.

Vladimir Lenin had a very high opinion of Stalin. When Lenin had his strokes, he called Stalin in and asked him to undertake the most personal tasks, tasks you would only entrust to someone you particularly trusted. Lenin emphasised it was Stalin he wanted to talk to, and not anybody else. All the Opposition's talk about bad relations between Lenin and Stalin does not correspond with reality at all. Relations between them remained very close and comradely. Stalin is a good organiser and a major figure. I thought Zinoviev, Kamenev and others wanted to use Lenin's Testament for political purposes. 5

Source B Adapted from Leon Trotsky's pamphlet, 'On the suppressed Testament of Lenin', 1932.

Lenin undoubtedly valued highly some of Stalin's personal qualities: his firmness of character, determination, stubbornness, even ruthlessness, and craftiness – qualities necessary in war and an army's general staff. Lenin, however, saw Stalin as a revolutionary, but not a statesman. Theory had too high an importance for Lenin in a political struggle. Nobody considered Stalin a theoretician. Stalin's value was wholly in the sphere of Party administration. But even here Lenin had reservations. Stalin was indiscriminately using the revolutionary dictatorship to recruit people with personal obligations and who were devoted to him. As General Secretary, Stalin dispensed favour and fortune. 10

Source C Stalin's rivals quite underestimated his determination to prove them wrong in their low opinion of him. Stalin understood where his deficiencies lay. He knew little German, less English and no French. He therefore resumed his attempt to teach himself English. He worked hard on his speeches. He marked out a distinct profile for himself at the forefront of the Party. By 1926, the Stalin group in the leadership was well organised. But Stalin did not rise to supreme power exclusively by means of bureaucratic manipulation. Certainly he had an advantage, as he could replace local Party secretaries. It is also true that the Party allowed him to control debates in the Central Committee and at Party Congresses. But such assets would have been useless to him if he had not been able to convince the Central Committee and the Party Congress that he was a suitable politician for them to follow. 10

Adapted from Robert Service, Stalin, A Biography, 2004

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 Stalin.
[12 marks]

and

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

How far was Stalin's rise to power by 1929 due to his rivals underestimating him?
[24 marks]

Either

Question 2

0 3 Explain why, by 1928, there was growing opposition to the NEP.

[12 marks]

and

0 4 'By 1941, Stalinism dominated every aspect of life in the USSR.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

Question 3

0 5 Explain why, during the 1930s, the Communist Party made heavy industry the main focus of the Soviet economy.

[12 marks]

and

0 6 'By 1941, the Soviet Union had benefited greatly from collectivisation.'
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 A: In Edward Acton and Tom Stableford, *The Soviet Union: A Documentary History, Volume 1: 1917-1940*, Liverpool University Press, 2005

Question 1 Source B: In John Laver, *Russia, 1914-1941 (History at Source)*, Hodder Education, 1991. Reproduced by permission of Hodder Education.

Question 1 Source C: Robert Service, *Stalin, A Biography*, Pan Books, 2004

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