



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2014

History

HIS2K

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

Thursday 22 May 2014 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 Extract from an Italian school textbook published in 1937 explaining why Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935.

The invasion of Abyssinia happened because of the rapid growth of the Italian nation through the efforts of Fascism and the Duce. The growth of the population, the lack of raw materials to advance industries, the small number of colonies and the profound sense of injustice felt at the Allies' treatment of Italy after the Great War pushed Italy towards the desire for more territory in which to live and work. The Italian people, emboldened by ten years of stern Fascist discipline, were now mature enough to compete with the great nations of Europe and the world. Italy was ready to conquer territory which made it the worthy inheritor of the tradition of Rome, thanks to the spiritual rebirth that is Fascism. What did the Italian people ask? Nothing more than that which they were owed.

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Source B The domestic reasons for the Fascist regime's decision to attack Abyssinia can scarcely be ignored. The worst point of the Great Depression was in December 1932, when planning for the invasion started. But the Italian economy was beginning to recover during 1934. That recovery was certainly aided by the government's war-related commissions and contracts, which began to flow in late 1934 and early 1935. The Fascist government had an economic view of the war. Before and during the invasion of Abyssinia, the Fascists claimed endlessly and unoriginally that Italy was fighting for its share of territory and resources at the expense of the richer imperialist powers. An empire would guarantee raw materials and markets; colonisation would satisfy land hunger.

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Adapted from Philip Morgan, *Italian Fascism 1915–1945* (Second Edition), 2004

Source C Abyssinia shifted the balance of power in Europe in Germany's favour. It left Mussolini at a diplomatic crossroads. Though sanctions had worsened relations with Britain and France, he still had some room for manoeuvre, including the possibility of reviving the Stresa Front and thereby curbing Hitler's ambitions. Instead he made the fateful choice of friendship and eventual alliance with Germany. This decision seemed advantageous at the time. Mussolini could see Britain and France were unlikely to allow him to make the Mediterranean an 'Italian lake' or acquire further territory, whereas it was clear that Hitler would not hinder Italian plans for expansion.

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

0	1
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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 reasons for Italy's invasion of Abyssinia in 1935.

[12 marks]

and

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

How important was the invasion of Abyssinia in shaping Italian foreign policy in the years 1935 to 1940?

[24 marks]

Either

Question 2

0	3
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Explain why the Fascists restricted female employment in the 1930s.

[12 marks]

and

0	4
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'Mussolini's social policies successfully created a nation of loyal Fascists.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

Or

Question 3

0	5
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Explain why the Fascist state finally collapsed in April 1945.

[12 marks]

and

0	6
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'Italy's poor war effort in the years 1940 to 1943 was because of economic factors.'
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: Philip Morgan, *Italian Fascism 1915–1945* (Second Edition), 2004, Palgrave Macmillan, reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan

Question 1 Source C: Page 91 in *Mussolini and Fascism* by Patricia Knight, Routledge, 2003

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