



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2014

## History

## HIS2L

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

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 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.

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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** Adapted from a letter written by Moisey Frumkin, Deputy Commissar of Finance, to the Soviet Politburo, June 1928.

Opinion in the countryside, apart from a small section of the poor peasants, is opposed to us Communists. The Party keeps talking about a union with the middle peasants, but in reality we are pushing them away from us. Fear of being branded a kulak has paralysed all incentives for middle peasants to improve their farms. We must struggle against the kulaks by reducing what they have accumulated, by increasing taxes and by freeing poor and middle peasants from the kulaks' economic and political influence. But we must not 'de-kulakise' or wreck the kulaks' farms, which we will need for some years to come. Assistance to individual farms should be the priority. There should be maximum help to poor peasants joining the collective farms, drawing them into a real socialist economy. State farms should not be expanded by shock or super-shock tactics. Give individual farmers, not just collective farms, the chance to get machinery.

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10

**Source B** Adapted from a speech by Stalin at a conference of Marxist agricultural experts, December 1929.

We must smash the kulaks, eliminate them as a class to prevent them from rising to their feet again, and replace their output with that from collective farms and state farms. In 1930, the output of collective and state farms will be immeasurably greater than what the kulaks supplied in 1927. You will see that we have the basis which enables us to replace the kulak output. This is why we have recently passed from the policy of restricting the exploiting tendencies of the kulaks to the policy of eliminating the kulaks as a class.

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**Source C** To justify Stalin's gamble on collectivisation, it would need to be shown that the flow of goods from the countryside to the towns exceeded the flow of industrial goods to the countryside. Unfortunately for Stalin, there was virtually no surplus. One reason was the lack of motivation of the rural labour force. Another was the massive slaughtering of livestock. To make up this deficit there had to be more tractors and farm machinery produced. Hence living standards were cut to increase investment. A side-effect of Stalin's misjudgement was that not enough food was produced for the population. The 1930s were years of hunger for the vast majority of people.

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Adapted from Martin McCauley, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union*, 2007

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 kulaks.

[12 marks]

and

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

How successful was Stalin's policy of collectivisation in improving agriculture in the USSR in the years 1928 to 1941?

[24 marks]

Either

**Question 2**

0	3
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Explain why there was uncertainty in 1924 about the succession to Lenin as leader.

[12 marks]

and

0	4
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'Lack of unity amongst his rivals ensured Stalin's success in gaining the leadership of the USSR by 1929.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

Or

**Question 3**

0	5
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Explain why Stalin purged many leading Communists in the years 1936 to 1938.

[12 marks]

and

0	6
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'Stalin's Great Terror ensured that the USSR was well prepared for war in 1941.'

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: As included In Edward Acton and Tom Stableford (eds.), *Soviet Union: A Documentary History Volume 1: 1917–1940*, Liverpool University Press, 2005.

Question 1 Source B: As included In Edward Acton and Tom Stableford (eds.), *Soviet Union: A Documentary History Volume 1: 1917–1940*, Liverpool University Press, 2005.

Question 1 Source C: Martin McCauley, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union: 1917–1991*, Longman, 2007.

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