

# A-level HISTORY

Component 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

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Friday 9 June 2017      Morning      Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1H.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  - 60 minutes on Question 01
  - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

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## Section A

Answer Question 01.

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### **Extract A**

The First Five-Year Plan signified a new and higher stage of planning, based on Lenin's 1920s plan for building socialism. Industrialisation was carried out with a truly Bolshevik spirit, which astonished the world. The country had to put up with many hardships. It was still a poor country. There was a shortage of clothing and footwear. Difficulties were shouldered primarily by the working class. The workers understood that industry could be built up only at the cost of sacrifice. Depriving themselves of everything, the workers displayed unprecedented labour heroism, unity, organisation and selflessness. In 1930 the Party called on the workers to fulfil the targets of the third year of the Plan. There was not a single enterprise where the workers did not respond. The number of heroes of labour steadily grew. At the beginning of 1933, the news spread that the Plan had been fulfilled in four years and three months. The USSR had been converted into an industrial country. The socialist system had completely eliminated the capitalist system. 5 10

Adapted from the chapter by B Ponomaryov (ed), Fulfilling the Leninist Plan from Peurciv Daniels, Stalin Revolution, 1973

### **Extract B**

Stalin's industrialisation produced impressive achievements at the expense of the population. Institutions, organisations and individuals often failed to live up to the tasks. Factories were re-organised along the lines of one-man management to ensure maximum efficiency and political mobilisation. The working class was forced to cope and live in destitution. Some segments of the working class fell out of favour. The idea of class war was powerful enough to make the mobilisation of vast resources possible. The break from the NEP in 1928–31 laid the foundations of the remarkable industrial expansion that would sustain the country in the Second World War. The achievements were dazzling, but characterised by continuous crisis. The appeal to socialist consciousness and proletarian discipline proved ineffective. The economy was plagued by problems. Managers had enormous difficulties mastering new, modern technology. The expanding labour force seemed ill-trained for modern equipment. The economy remained extremely unstable and critical. Output per worker fell: the growth in overall output was mainly due to the vast expansion of the labour force. 5 10

Adapted from H Kuromiya, Stalin's Industrial Revolution, 1988

**Extract C**

The drive to industrialisation tried to do too much too fast. Economic plans were over-ambitious, reflecting the triumph of political decrees over economic considerations. Factories were driven to raise immediate output regardless of cost or quality. Deadly purges were waged in order to attain impossible objectives. Wholesale reorganisation of NEP agriculture did decisive damage to the rural economy and recovery took many years; meanwhile the basis for industrial growth was narrowed, rather than enlarged. New resources were created, but at the same time, existing resources were destroyed. All resources were used with less efficiency than before 1928. There was underutilised capacity, lost output and wasted investments. The leaders pushed too hard. At first there would be tremendous achievements. Meanwhile, however, tensions would accumulate. By 1932, and again in 1937, the economy was in a mess. The crisis of the late 1930s involved a destabilising combination of mobilisation, huge unplanned increases in defence spending and deadly repressions. From 1938 there was stagnation, just when Soviet leaders most wanted additional resources.

Adapted from J Barber and M Harrison, The Soviet Home Front, 1991

**0 | 1**

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the impact of Soviet industrial policy between 1921 and 1941.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for the next question.**

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## Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 | 2** 'The main aim of Alexander III was to reverse his father's policies.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1855 to 1894.

**[25 marks]**

**0 | 3** 'Peasant discontent posed a major threat to the tsarist regime between 1894 and 1917.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 | 4** To what extent were the key features of post-Second World War Stalinism still in place at the time of Khrushchev's overthrow in 1964?

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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