

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2R The Cold War, c1945–1991

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Wednesday 3 June 2020    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 7042/2R.
- 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 two questions in Section B.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a press conference given by the State Committee for the State of Emergency, acting as the new Soviet leadership, 19 August 1991. This followed Gorbachev's removal from office.

Friends and comrades, because Mikhail Gorbachev is unable, owing to the state of his health, to discharge the duties of the President of the USSR, the Vice President has temporarily taken over the duties of President.

We address you today at a moment that is crucial for the destinies of the Soviet Union and the international situation throughout the world. Having embarked on the path of profound reforms and having gone a considerable way in this direction, the Soviet Union has now reached a point where it finds itself faced with a deep crisis; the further development of this crisis threatens the course of our reforms and could lead to serious consequences in international life.

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In many regions of the USSR, as a result of inter-ethnic clashes, blood is being spilled; the collapse of the USSR would have the most serious consequences not only internally but also internationally. In such conditions we have no alternative but to take decisive steps to stop the country from sliding into disaster.

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**Source B**

From a private phone call between President of the United States, George Bush and the President of the Republic of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, 20 August 1991.

Bush: Just checking up to see how things are going from your end.

Yeltsin: A group of eight individuals has put together an anti-constitutional coup. Vice President Yanayev is using the pretext that Gorbachev is ill, but this is not confirmed. Troops have been brought to Moscow. I appeared before the people and soldiers and I said that the actions of the State Committee were unconstitutional, illegal, and have no force on Russian territory.

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The building of the Supreme Soviet and the office of the President is surrounded and I expect a storming of the building at any moment. I have appealed to 100 000 people standing outside to defend the legally elected government. Basically this is a right-wing coup.

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Mr President, it would be good if you yourself could demand to speak on the phone with Gorbachev and to rally world leaders to the fact that the situation here is critical.

Bush: You have our full support for the return of Gorbachev and legitimate government.

**Source C**

From Gorbachev's address to the nation on his resignation as General Secretary of the CPSU and President of the USSR, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, 25 December 1991.

Fellow countrymen.

I am resigning on considerations of principle. The policy of dismembering this country and disuniting the state is something I cannot agree with.

This being my last opportunity to address you, I wish to inform you of what I think of the road that we have taken since 1985. 5

The process of renovating this country and bringing about drastic change in the international community has proven to be much more complicated than anyone could imagine. However, we're now living in a new world. We have set an example for restructuring a country on a peaceful democratic basis.

All this change created a lot of strain, and was resisted by reactionary forces, both the party and state structures, and the economic elite. The old system fell apart even before the new system began to work. 10

I am concerned that the people in this country are ceasing to become citizens of a great power and the consequences may be very difficult for all of us to deal with.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the position of Gorbachev in 1991.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** To what extent were the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences responsible for the growth of Cold War tensions in the years 1945 to 1946? **[25 marks]**

**0 3** How significant was the communist victory in China in influencing US foreign policy in the years 1949 to 1953? **[25 marks]**

**0 4** 'Nixon's policies towards Vietnam, in the years 1968 to 1972, were a total failure.'  
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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