

A-level HISTORY

Component 2N Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Wednesday 13 June 2018 Afternoon 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 7042/2N.
- 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.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a report of Bukharin's views in 1936, by Boris Nicolaevski, a Menshevik, who had met Bukharin in Paris that year. Nicolaevski emigrated to America, 1942 and published this account, 1965.

Kirov's murder ushered in a new period in the history of the Soviet Union. It looked, at first, as though the terror inside the Party was only an unpleasant accident. All that was necessary was for Stalin's crisis of morbid mistrust to pass. To this end, it was maintained, the loyalty of the Party to its present leadership must be stressed as often as possible. Alas, how naive were all these hopes of ours! The trend was in quite the opposite direction – towards intensification of the terror to the stage of physical extermination of all those whose past might make them opponents of Stalin or desire his power. If, before the murder of Kirov, Stalin still had some hesitation as to which road to choose, he had now made up his mind. The determining reason for Stalin's decision was his realisation that the mood of the majority of the old Party workers was really one of bitterness and hostility towards him.

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Source B

This item has been removed because of third-party copyright restrictions. It is from 'Hope against Hope' by Nadezhda Mandelstam and is a paragraph about the feelings when citizens were arrested.

Source C

From a letter sent by Joseph E Davies, the US ambassador to the USSR, 1936–1938, to his daughter, 8 March 1938.

For the last week I have been attending daily sessions of the Bukharin treason trial. It is terrific. I have found it of much intellectual interest. All the fundamental weaknesses of human nature – personal ambitions at their worst – are shown up in the proceedings.

This testimony now makes clear what we could not understand last spring and summer.

The extraordinary testimony of Bukharin and the rest would appear to indicate that the Kremlin's fears of a plot were well-justified. But the government acted with great vigour.

The Red Army generals were shot and the whole party organisation was purged. Then it came out that quite a few of those at the top were seriously infected with the virus of conspiracy and were working with the secret service organisations of Germany and Japan. This situation explains the present official attitude of hostility towards foreigners.

Quite frankly, we can't blame the powers-that-be for reacting in this way if they believed what is now being divulged at the trial.

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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 state terror in the USSR in the 1930s.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'Trotsky's contribution to the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917 was greater than that of Lenin.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** How important were unity and organisation to the Red victory in the Civil War in the years 1918 to 1921?

[25 marks]

- 0 4** To what extent was the destruction of the kulaks the most important outcome of Stalin's campaign of forced collectivisation?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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