

A-level HISTORY

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

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 7042/2N.
- 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 speech by Stalin, delivered to workers in higher education, at a reception in the Kremlin, 17 May 1938, and published in the government newspaper, Pravda, two days later.

Comrades, permit me to propose a toast to science and its progress, and to the health of men of science. Sometimes it is not well-known men of science who lay new roads for science and technology, but men entirely unknown in the scientific world, plain, practical men, innovators in their field. Here, sitting at this table is Comrade Stakhanov. He is unknown in the scientific world. He has no scientific degree, but is just a practical man in his field. But everyone knows that in practical work in industry, Stakhanov and the Stakhanovites have upset the existing standards, which were established by well-known scientists and technologists. They have introduced new standards which conform to the requirements of real science and technology. Who can deny that Stakhanov is an innovator; a man of advanced science? In him you see what 'miracles' can still be performed in science. To the progress of our advanced science! To Stakhanov and the Stakhanovites!

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Source B

From an interview given by Tatiana Fedorova, a 1930s Soviet construction worker and Stakhanovite, for a TV documentary jointly produced by the BBC (UK) and PBS (USA), 1995.

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Source C

From, 'I Chose Freedom' by Viktor Kravchenko, 1946. Kravchenko was an industrial manager in the USSR in the 1930s but defected to the USA where he published this account.

In 1935, a 'miracle' occurred in the Donets Basin coal region. A worker named Stakhanov mined 102 tons of coal in one shift, 14 times the normal output! Few events have been greeted with such sustained, hysterical and exaggerated praise. To an engineer, the elements of deceit were fairly transparent. It was a miracle made to order – to launch the new religion of 'speed-up'. Moscow screamed the new Stakhanovite slogans. Every demand was a blunt threat. Engineers or supervisors who raised objections would be treated as saboteurs. In the end, in my own factory, I was obliged to resort to artificial 'speed-up' which, in my heart, I considered a crime against the workers. I regrouped my labour, putting the best workers, foremen and engineers into one shift. Then we selected the best tools and materials. With reporters and photographers present, the special 'Stakhanovite' shift got underway. As expected, it over-fulfilled the normal quota by 8%. There were flaming headlines and congratulations, but this 'victory' merely left me heartsick.

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0 1

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Stakhanovite movement in the USSR.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'The two revolutions of February/March 1917 and October/November 1917 were the result of Russia's involvement in the First World War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** 'Stalin's foreign policies were inconsistent and contradictory in the years 1924 to 1934.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 4** How far was Stalin personally responsible for the mass terror and purges of the Yezhovshchina in the years 1936 to 1938?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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