

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

Wednesday 17 May 2017 – Afternoon

Paper Reference

Extracts Booklet

8HI0/1E

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From David Evans and Jane Jenkins, *Years of Russia, the USSR and the Collapse of Soviet Communism*, published 2008.

In the Soviet Union, the economic situation continued to decline and there were now strikes in various parts of the country. Gorbachev's failure to stimulate the country's sluggish economy and bring about an upturn led to a rapid decline in his popularity. After six years in office the radical reformers felt that his attempts at reform were too slow and the aims of *glasnost* and *perestroika* were not being achieved. Because of Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, the Party had lost its control over the media and so was no longer able to cover up the country's economic and social problems. With production targets still not being met and projects left unfinished, Gorbachev's critics claimed his reforms were cosmetic. Rising inflation brought with it price increases, shortages and long queues for basic necessities. This led to a rapid decline in the quality of life of the Russian people.

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Extract 2: From John Darwin, *After Tamerlane: the Rise and Fall of Global Empires 1400–2000*, published 2008.

Gorbachev found that the transition from Soviet control to an 'informal empire' over Eastern Europe was not an easy option. To give up control and the threat of coercion was to take a big risk. Without other means to keep old client states loyal, it might even prove fatal. What Moscow could offer by way of economic rewards was poor indeed compared with the West. With dizzying speed East European reform turned into East European revolt. In November 1989 the Berlin Wall came down, pro-Soviet governments collapsed, the East European 'outer empire' vanished. This disaster devastated the authority and the legitimacy of the Soviet regime. The command economy broke down at home. In the following year (1990) the revolt spread quickly across the 'inner empire' of the Soviet Union. The Soviet republics – including Russia itself under Boris Yeltsin – now demanded their freedom.

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