

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1E

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From J.N. Westwood, *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian History 1812–1992*, 4th edition, published 1993.

By summer 1990, Yeltsin, now openly opposed by Gorbachev, was elected president of the Russian Republic. Strengthened by his new status and Lithuania's declaration of independence, Yeltsin got his parliament to declare Russian sovereignty. Other republics also made similar declarations of independence and it was clear that the central USSR government was losing authority. Yeltsin also led the opposition to the August 1991 attempted coup and was rightly seen as the hero of the hour. Over the next few days, he took the opportunity to crush the Communist Party, once and for all. He suspended the activities of the Communist Party in the Russian Republic. During the rest of 1991, the transfer of power from Gorbachev's USSR to the republics was unstoppable with Yeltsin setting the pace and Gorbachev fighting to preserve the union. At the end of 1991, with republics collecting and keeping taxes and the Ukraine voting for independence, it became clear that the USSR was coming to an end.

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Extract 2: From Robert Service, *A History of Modern Russia: From Nicholas II to Putin*, published 2003.

Several of the principal features of communism in the USSR were being undermined by Gorbachev's reforming activity: the one party state, the ideological control, the militant atheism, the centralised administration and the state economic monopoly. Perestroika had become a project for total transformation. It was scarcely surprising that many senior Soviet figures, including several he had promoted, were shocked. Gorbachev was encouraging the disintegration of the existing Soviet system by his actions, if not by his deliberate purpose. His background prevented him from seeing clearly where his path of transformation was leading. While wanting a market economy, he did not think this would involve much capitalism. While approving of national self-expression, he opposed the idea of any republic breaking away from the USSR. While wishing to replace traditional communist officials with energetic newcomers, he often chose newcomers who had no serious commitment to reform.

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