

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Sample assessment materials for first teaching
September 2015

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1E

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Martin McCauley, *The Soviet Union, 1917–91*, published 1993.

When Gorbachev took his leave of the Soviet people on 25 December 1991, he did so a saddened man. The Soviet Union, which he had tried so bravely to reform, was about to pass into history.

Gorbachev had a clear agenda before he took office. In a speech in December 1984, he spoke of the need to make 'deep transformations in the economy and the whole system of social relations'. His intention was to set in motion a revolution, controlled from above. His reforms quickly reached their limits. Gorbachev's intention was not to achieve fundamental changes but to make the existing structures function more efficiently. The state created by Lenin and the centrally planned economy were to remain. He rejected Stalin's legacy and searched for a more humane socialism. However, he never had a clear vision of how political, economic and social reform would interact and allow the USSR to progress. Unfortunately for Gorbachev, public, social and political forces, awakened by *perestroika*, could not be regulated from above.

Extract 2: From Robert Service, *The Penguin History of Modern Russia*, published 1997.

Nowhere was Gorbachev's complacency more harmful [to the Soviet Union] than in relation to the 'national question'. Gorbachev was not a pure Russian: he was born to a couple consisting of a Russian and a Ukrainian. He was comfortable with his dual identity, and this produced casualness that gave much offence. For example, when he visited Ukraine in 1986, he spoke about Russia and the USSR as if they were one and the same. Ukrainian national sensitivities were outraged.

The nationalist resurgence in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had become more defiant by 1988. Not all the dissenters were calling for outright independence, but the degree of self-government demanded by them was rising. Their example stimulated national movements elsewhere.

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 is from Martin McCauley, *The Soviet Union 1917–1991*, Longman 1993 © 2014 Taylor & Francis Group; Extract 2 is from Robert Service, *The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty-first Century*, Penguin 2009 © Penguin Books Ltd

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