

# Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

## History

**Advanced**

**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  
**9HI0/1E**

**Do not return this booklet with the question paper.**

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### Extracts for use with Section C.

**Extract 1:** From John Keep, *A History of the Soviet Union 1945–1991*, published 1995.

Gorbachev, who had made his career in a region where ethnic tensions were not particularly marked, underestimated their explosive potential. A rationalist, he assumed too readily that national enmities could be reduced by social and economic progress. As late as November 1987, when it was already clear that the national question was a volcano that might erupt at any time, he was uttering soothing statements to the effect that the problem had essentially been solved but needed review by experts. He suffered from 'ethnic blindness' as shown by his policy of appointing Russians to replace uncooperative native leaders. When protests [over one such replacement] broke out in Kazakhstan, nine demonstrators were killed and five hundred arrested. Protests were staged in sympathy in several other places. Despite this ominous warning, the number of non-Russians in leading Party bodies tended to decline in the early years of *perestroika*. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Gorbachev, preoccupied by what he saw as far more substantial issues, displayed a remarkable degree of complacency.

**Extract 2:** From Robert Service, *The Penguin History of Modern Russia*, published 1998.

By 1988, Gorbachev had carried out what had once been a virtually inconceivable transformation of politics and culture. The entire structure of the state had been shaken, and Gorbachev let it be known that more walls had to be brought down before he could properly rebuild as he wished.

While battering the system in 1986–88, Gorbachev hoped to change the Soviet order and secure popular approval and political legitimacy throughout society. He still aimed, in his confused fashion of thought, to preserve the Soviet Union and the one-party state. Lenin and the October Revolution were meant to remain publicly revered. But he failed to understand that his actions were strengthening the very phenomena which he was trying to eliminate. Glasnost and *perestroika* were undermining the political and economic foundations of the Soviet order. Localism, nationalism, corruption, illegal private profiteering and distrust of official authority: all these phenomena had been reinforced by the dismantling of central controls undertaken by Gorbachev.

### Acknowledgements

Extract 1 is from John Keep, *Last of the Empires: A History of the Soviet Union 1945–1991*, Oxford University Press 2002. By permission of Oxford University Press; 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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