



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 18 May 2020 – Afternoon

AS Level History A

Y253/01 The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2 in Section A. Answer Question 3 in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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SECTION A

Answer **ONE** question.

EITHER

- 1*** 'Conflict rather than co-operation characterised relations within the Grand Alliance of the USA, USSR and Great Britain in the years from 1941 to 1945.' How far do you agree? **[30]**

OR

- 2*** 'Stalin was the greatest barrier to an improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and the West in the years between 1946 and his death in 1953.' How far do you agree? **[30]**

3

SECTION B

3 Read the interpretation and then answer the question that follows:

‘Gorbachev’s leadership of the USSR... is the leading explanation of how the Cold War ended.’

Adapted from: A. Roberts, ‘An “incredibly swift transition”: reflections on the end of the Cold War’, in M. Leffler & O. Westad (Eds.), *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, published in 2010.

Evaluate the strengths and limitations of this interpretation, making reference to other interpretations that you have studied. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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