



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/C: Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and communism

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations A and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03



2 4 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / C

IB/M/Jun24/G4006/E4

8145/1A/C

Interpretation A Adapted from an interview in 1981 with the American politician Averell Harriman, about his role during the Second World War.

In 1941, Harriman was chosen by the American President to be his personal representative in Moscow. Part of his job was to organise the sending of US military equipment to Stalin. He had more face to face contact with Stalin than any other Western official.

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Interpretation A is Harriman praising Stalin's leadership during the Second World War

Interpretation B Adapted from a speech by the new Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, 1956. The speech was made three years after Stalin's death.

Khrushchev's words shocked a confidential meeting of powerful Soviet officials by criticising Stalin's dictatorship. Khrushchev promised that he would be a better leader than Stalin. A copy of the speech was smuggled out of the USSR and was published in the West.

Stalin was not a good war leader. He never visited the frontline, and he did his military planning on a globe rather than on a detailed map. Stalin had weakened us by removing so many experienced military commanders before the war. He ignored warnings that Germany would invade and our industry was not even able to supply enough military equipment.

However, our media praised Stalin as if he were a god. When so much power is given to one person, it can only have terrible consequences.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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