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# A-level HISTORY

## The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953–2000

Paper 2T

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 2T.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 60 minutes on Question 01
    - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01

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**Source A**

Excerpts from a meeting between striking workers in Gdansk, led by Lech Walesa and officials from the Polish Communist Party in August 1980

Walesa: Deputy Premier! We welcome you on behalf of the United Strike Committee representing about 370 factories in the Gdansk region. The fact that we represent hundreds of thousands of people makes us feel certain that the cause we are fighting for is just. Coming here may make you understand what a shipyard is like when the workers are governing themselves. You can see for yourself how orderly it all is. The serious matters we must settle requires us to act with caution and without haste. We hope that today's meeting will be the first step towards ending the strike.

Mieczyslaw Jagielski: Thank you Mr Chairman. I would also like to state at the outset that it is my intention, as well as my duty and responsibility, to conduct these talks in a most straightforward and positive manner. We wish to resolve basic and important problems of the greatest concern to the workers.

**Source B**

Private letter from Brezhnev to East German Leader, Erich Honecker, November 4<sup>th</sup> 1980

Dear Erich

You are well aware of the political situation in Poland. The counter-revolution is on the attack and has practically seized the party by the throat. At a recent meeting we conveyed to the Poles our views about the need to halt the course of events and launch an attack against the counter-revolutionary forces. In these circumstances, the economy acquires enormous significance and it is now close to a catastrophe. A further deterioration of the situation in Poland threatens to inflict enormous damage on the entire socialist commonwealth. For that reason it is our common internationalist and I would even say, our class duty to do everything we can to prevent this.

We ourselves will assume the main burden in this matter. Despite our own economic problems, we will give Poland significant financial and economic assistance by extending hard-currency grants and extra shipments of a number of goods.

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**Source C**

Radio Address to the Nation by US President, Ronald Reagan October 9, 1982

My fellow Americans:

Yesterday the Polish Government, a military dictatorship, took another far-reaching step in their persecution of their own people. They declared Solidarity, the organisation of the working men and women of Poland, illegal. Yes, I know Poland is a faraway country in Eastern Europe. Still, this action is a matter of profound concern to all the American people and to the free world. Ever since martial law was brutally imposed last December, Polish authorities have been assuring the world that they're interested in a genuine reconciliation with the Polish people. But this action reveals the hollowness of its promises; they have made it clear that they never had any intention of restoring one of the most elemental human rights – the right to belong to a free trade union. America cannot stand idly by in the face of these latest acts of repression by the Polish Government.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Polish revolution, 1980-1982.

**[30 marks]**

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**Section B**Answer **two** questions

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**0 2**

‘Despite his apparent readiness to negotiate with the USA, Khrushchev was never committed to a policy of peaceful co-existence.’

Assess the validity of this statement.

**[25 marks]****0 3**

‘Although his regime was threatened by many different groups within the USSR, Brezhnev managed to deal with all opposition effectively.’

Assess the validity of this statement.

**[25 marks]****0 4**

How significant was Dubcek in the escalation of the crisis in Czechoslovakia in 1968?

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

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