



A-level HISTORY

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953

Paper 2N

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 **2N**.
- 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 AAnswer Question 01

Source A

Adapted from a speech by Stalin to business executives (industrial managers) in February 1931

You not only pledge yourselves to fulfil our five-year plan in four years. You promise to fulfil it in three years in all the basic, decisive branches of industry. To slacken the tempo would mean falling behind. One feature of the history of old Russia was the continual beatings she suffered. We refuse to be beaten. Do you want our socialist fatherland to be beaten and to lose its independence? If you do not want this, you must put an end to its backwardness in the shortest possible time and develop a genuine Bolshevik tempo in building up its socialist economy. There is no other way. That is why Lenin said; 'Either perish, or overtake and outstrip the advanced capitalist countries.' We are fifty or a hundred years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall go under. Our obligation to the workers and peasants of the USSR dictates this to us.

Source B

Adapted from an article written by Christian Rakovsky, a prominent member of the Trotskyist opposition, written in 1930

Today they increase the programme for coal and iron to make it possible to fulfil the programme for machine-building. Tomorrow it will be necessary to expand the programme for machine-building to make it possible to fulfil the enlarged programme for coal and iron. In the midst of this spiral it suddenly turns out that it is posing tasks for transport that transport will not be able to cope with, unless transport gets an appropriate supply of iron and steel – and so the programme for coal and steel is boosted again and the circle begins anew. Hence the exaggerated tempos, the exaggerated figures, the exaggerated plans which collapse as soon as they come into touch with reality. These high tempos only exist on paper, in books, in articles and in plans. Any advance in one area comes at the expense of creating colossal disruptions in other areas, of creating huge new disproportions.

Source C

Adapted from a letter written to a friend by the wife of a locomotive driver in Maniogorsk during the First Five-Year Plan

Dear Marfa

We are both wives of locomotive drivers. You probably know that the rail transport workers are not fulfilling the plan. They are disrupting supplies to the blast furnaces. The workers accuse our husbands, saying the rail workers hinder the fulfilment of the plan. It is offensive, painful and annoying to hear this – because it is the plain truth. Every day there were stoppages and breakdowns in rail transport. Yet it has everything it needs. My husband always works like a shock worker, exceeding his norms. You, Marta, are always complaining that life is difficult for your family. That is because your husband does not fulfil the plan. The workers know he is the worst driver. I ask you to talk to your husband. Teach him to understand Comrade Stalin's words, that work is a matter of honour and heroism. Otherwise he will be fired. We must all help our husbands to fight. It's pretty good to be the wife of a shock worker. It's within our power.

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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 First Five-Year Plan.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions

0 2

Why was there no outright successor to Lenin as leader of the USSR on Lenin's death in 1924?

[25 marks]

0 3

'There was a revolution in culture in the USSR between 1929 and 1941.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

What was the importance of terror in keeping Stalin in power between 1945 and his death in 1953?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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