

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

HS4E

Unit 4

Alternative E: Germany, Russia and the Soviet Union in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Wednesday 4 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS4E.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.
- In answering both Question 1(b) in Section A and your choice of question from Section B, you are advised to draw on an appropriate range of historical knowledge and skills to demonstrate overall historical understanding for the synoptic assessment requirements for this question paper.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

SECTION A: AUTOCRACY AND REFORM IN GERMANY AND RUSSIA, 1825–1939

You must answer this question.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A In Germany, only a minority of the middle class was politically active by 1848; there were no political parties and no political mass movement. Liberalism was a minority belief, and not all nationalists could agree on the true extent of the German nation-state they wished to create. These divisions would be a serious problem in 1848. When elections were held for the Frankfurt Parliament, not a single working man was elected and only one peasant. In Prussia violence in the streets of Berlin alarmed the middle class and the army was recalled to maintain order. In the end, the counter-revolution was virtually bloodless: the opposition to the King and princes was by this stage too weak, and German unity seemed as far away as ever.

Adapted from R WHITFIELD, *Germany 1848–1914*, 2000

Source B Adapted from Lenin's Decree dissolving the Constituent Assembly, January 1918

The Constituent Assembly represents the old order. At the time of voting, the people were not in a position to decide between the right wing and the left wing. To deny full power to the soviets in favour of a bourgeois parliament would be a backward step and the death blow to the October Revolution of workers and peasants. The majority parties – the Socialist Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks – are engaged in open war against the Petrograd Soviet. Under the circumstances, the Bolsheviks had no choice but to withdraw from the Assembly. The Constituent Assembly is dissolved.

Source C The Weimar Republic was confronted by political opposition from the extreme left and right, whilst its democratic supporters were faced with the problem of creating and maintaining government coalitions. The cumulative effect of these problems created an atmosphere of ongoing political crisis. However, it is clear that the extreme left posed much less of a threat than was believed at the time. Prompted by the propaganda of the extreme right, the impression of a 'Red Threat' frightened many into exaggerated fears. It drove the moderate parliamentary left into increasing reliance on the forces of reaction.

Adapted from G LAYTON, *From Bismarck to Hitler: Germany 1890–1933*, 1995

Source D Adapted from Stalin's speech to leading industrial personnel, February 1931

- No other government in the world enjoys such support as does the Soviet Government. However, we must put an end to our economic backwardness in the shortest time possible. This is dictated to us by our obligations to the workers and peasants of the USSR, and to the working class of the whole world. There is no
- 5 other way. To slacken the tempo would mean falling behind; and those who fall behind get beaten. That is why Lenin said: 'Either perish, or outstrip the advanced capitalist countries'.

- (a) Use **Sources B** and **D** and your own knowledge.

How useful are **Sources B** and **D** in explaining how Lenin and Stalin sought to justify the reasons for their dictatorships? *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Sources A, B, C** and **D** and your own knowledge.

'Autocratic governments remained in power because the movements wanting change and reform were weak and divided.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to **both** Russia **and** Germany during the period 1825 to 1939. *(20 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

SECTION B: EUROPEAN DICTATORSHIPS IN THE INTER-WAR YEARS

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 2 'Stalin and Hitler were able to achieve power because of their political skills rather than the mistakes of their opponents.'
Assess the validity of this judgement in comparing the reasons for the rise to power of Stalin in the USSR by 1929 and Hitler in Germany by January 1933. (20 marks)
- 3 'The Soviet state gained but at the expense of the Soviet people.'
How accurate is this assessment of the economic and social impact of Stalin's dictatorship in the USSR in the years 1928 to 1939? (20 marks)
- 4 'Hitler achieved a political revolution but failed to bring about a social revolution.'
Assess the validity of this verdict on Nazi Germany in the years 1933 to 1939. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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