

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

HS4F

Unit 4

Alternative F: Russia and the USSR, 1881–1985

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 HS4F.
- 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 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: ECONOMIC MODERNISATION IN RUSSIA AND THE USSR, 1881–1985

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 the 1890s Russian industrialisation progressed rapidly, based on the expansion of heavy industry. But many industrial processes remained primitive and highly labour-intensive. Russian labour was notoriously inefficient, and low labour productivity often necessitated a large work force. Small-scale enterprises grew
5 less rapidly, and often declined when facing competition from the factories, although overall they displayed a remarkable energy. Foreign investment was important, especially in those industries which spearheaded Russia's industrialisation.

Adapted from M FALKUS, *The Industrialisation of Russia, 1700–1914*, 1972

Source B

A brief text extract adapted from V BROVKIN, *Russia after Lenin*, 1998, discussing the poor performance of state run industry in Russia in 1926 when compared with Russian industry in 1913. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Source C Under Stalin, building an industrial economy from above by socialist state planning replaced the missing bourgeois stage of Russian economic development. Socialists rather than capitalists would build the modern economy through a rigid command economy and economic coercion. The socialist
5 economy would become an instrument for waging a war to the death against capitalism. In the 1930s Stalin shifted economic planning to favour defence. Exploiting the economy to ensure revolutionary survival overtook all other priorities, and left the Soviet Union burdened for the rest of its existence with top-heavy military production.

Adapted from R OVERY, *The Dictators*, 2005

- Source D** Khrushchev's Seven-Year Plan (1959–1965) called for light industry and consumer goods to grow faster than heavy industry (iron and steel, engineering, fuel and chemicals), but the opposite happened. Consumer goods production remained backward and totally unable to meet the population's needs. The
- 5 quality of production in both heavy and light industry remained very poor. Production was extremely wasteful: much of the fuel, raw materials and metal produced was lost during transport, ruined through misuse, or over-consumed. Thus, much of what industry manufactured made little or no contribution to the country's well-being, even though it counted in the statistics as 'growth'.

Adapted from D FILTZER, *The Khrushchev Era*, 1993

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

How fully does **Source C** support the view put forward in **Source B** of the Soviet regime's approach to creating a socialist economy in the years to 1941? (10 marks)

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

'Russian and Soviet Governments were remarkably successful in achieving their goal of industrial modernisation in the years 1881 to 1985.'

Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)

Turn over for the next question

SECTION B: THE STALIN DICTATORSHIP AND ITS LEGACY, 1929–1968

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 2 Assess the extent to which Stalin's motives for the collectivisation of agriculture in the USSR were political rather than economic. (20 marks)
- 3 To what extent, by 1953, had the USSR recovered economically and socially from the impact of the 1941–1945 War? (20 marks)
- 4 Assess the extent to which the motives for Destalinisation in the USSR between the death of Stalin in 1953 and the fall of Khrushchev in 1964 were political rather than economic. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Source B: V BROVKIN, *Russia After Lenin*, Routledge, 1998

Source C: R OVERY, *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's Russia*, Penguin, 2005. © Richard Overy, 2004

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