

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

Unit 6W

**Alternative G: The Re-unification of Germany,
c1969–1990**

HS6G

Friday 22 June 2007 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 blue or black ink or 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 HS6G.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- 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 part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

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

Source A Günter Schabowski, an East German Politbüro member, recalls the return of an envoy who had been sent to Budapest with a formal request from his government not to allow GDR citizens to cross the newly opened border into Austria, May 1989.

He came back with the reply that Budapest was not prepared to undertake any restrictions on behalf of our government and that this sort of co-operation between Hungary and the GDR must cease. The reaction on our part was one of utter helplessness. Honecker was incapable of any
5 reaction at all. It was simply impossible for him to come to terms with what he saw as the Hungarians' treachery, so he did nothing at all. The subject was barely mentioned after that.

Source B A letter from a young man on compulsory military service in Dresden. He served in the reserve police on the night of 4 October 1989 when the railway station was stormed by 2 000 people who were trying to join a train to the West.

They put us right at the front, where it was most dangerous. Stones and bottles rained down on us. Then the commander came and told us to charge the crowd. At that moment, for the first time ever I was seized by fear for my life. We were completely untrained; many of us fainted. We
5 were fighting for our lives. Before us stood the masses, high on fear and anger. Behind us, screaming their commands, our officers and the Stasi. Please tell others so that they will know what faces them as conscripts in our so-called socialist state. Tell them to think carefully about answering the call-up, even if the only alternative is prison. I fear with all my heart
10 the uses to which our army and security forces may be put in the coming months.

Source C The opening of the Berlin Wall was the fulfilment of the goal of Ostpolitik, although it went beyond what the architects of Ostpolitik had thought to be possible. Insofar as West German policy makers had a concept of promoting desirable political change in the GDR, they had aimed at reform
5 from above. Instead, the change came through rebellion from below. If the original idea had been liberalisation through stabilisation, what actually happened was liberation through destabilisation. By allowing the Honecker leadership to continue without reforms, Bonn had actually helped the GDR down the road to ruin. Perhaps the architects of policy towards the GDR
10 got it right because they got it wrong!

Adapted from T GARTON ASH, *In Europe's Name*, 1994

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source C** about the policy of Ostpolitik.
(10 marks)

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about the attitude of East Germans to the GDR in October 1989?
(10 marks)

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

‘The collapse of the GDR in 1989 was more the consequence of external developments than of internal factors.’
Assess the validity of this view, with reference to the years 1969 to 1989.
(20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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