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# AS HISTORY

## Italy and Fascism, c1900–1926

Paper 2L

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Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 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 **2L**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Questions 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

Adapted from an editorial in a British newspaper, *The Times*, 31 October 1923, reviewing the first year of Italy under Mussolini's rule.

Italy has never been so united as she is today. Fascism has abolished the game of parliamentary chess; it has also simplified the taxation system and reduced the financial deficit to manageable proportions. It has vastly improved the public services, particularly the railways. It has reduced the large bureaucracy without any very bad results in the way of hardships or unemployment. It has pursued a vigorous and fairly successful colonial policy. It has given to Italy national security and national self-respect. Fascism has had a great deal of courage, very considerable wisdom and immense good luck. It deserves the sincere birthday greetings of the world.

**Source B**

Adapted from a speech by Vittorio Orlando, 16 January 1925. Orlando held several government posts before the First World War and was prime minister from 1917 to 1919. At first, he had supported Mussolini's government.

It is claimed that the country is calm. Well, if you are willing to be content with that kind of calm! During the last two years we have gone through various phases of government. There was what I would call the private violence of the Fascist Party and its organisations. This violence was deplored even by the government. Then there followed governmental restrictions on personal freedom, with the justification that this was the way to deal with the aforementioned violence. And thus repression from the government took over from the Fascist Party. But now we have both evils: governmental repression and continuing party violence.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why Mussolini succeeded in consolidating his Fascist regime between October 1922 and 1926?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

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**EITHER**

**0 2**

‘Instability in Italy in 1919 was due to Italy’s involvement in the First World War.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 3**

‘Italian democracy collapsed in 1922 because the conservative elites feared Socialism more than they feared Fascism.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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