
AS HISTORY

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1929

Paper 2N

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 **2N**.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 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 AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Adapted from Victor Serge's book 'From Lenin to Stalin', written in 1937. Serge was a colleague of Zinoviev during the civil war and embraced the position of the Left Opposition from 1926.

Lenin was good-natured, unassuming, ordinary in appearance; an outsider would scarcely have noticed him. Trotsky, on the other hand, would nowhere have passed unnoticed, with his shock of hair, the erect carriage of his head, the intensity of his blue-grey eyes. He had about him something authoritative and compelling. On the platform his voice had a metallic ring, and each sentence was like a sharp thrust. He was to become the superior orator of this revolution. His written style was consummately skilful. But the main thing was that the hour which had struck was the hour he had awaited, foreseen, and desired all his life.

Source B

Adapted from Lenin's Last Testament written in 1922.

Comrade Stalin, having become Secretary-General, has unlimited authority concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that authority with sufficient caution. Comrade Trotsky, on the other hand is distinguished not only by outstanding ability, but also he is personally perhaps the most capable man in the present Central Committee, but he has displayed excessive self-assurance and shown excessive preoccupation with the purely administrative side of the work. These two qualities of the two outstanding leaders of the present Central Committee might inadvertently lead to a split, and if our Party does not take steps to avert this, the split may come unexpectedly.

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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 Trotsky failed to win the power struggle?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

EITHER

0 2

‘By 1921 the Bolsheviks had successfully overcome the problems confronting them after taking power in 1917.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

OR

0 3

‘The introduction and continuation of the NEP saved Bolshevik Russia from collapse.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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