

A-level HISTORY

Component 2N Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Wednesday 5 June 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2N.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From Anatolii Zhigulin's autobiographical novel, 'Black Stones', published in 1988. Zhigulin was born in 1930. He was sent to a gulag in 1949 for joining an 'illegal armed organisation'.

Yes, we were kids of seventeen, eighteen years of age, and those were terrible years, just after the war. People swelled up from hunger, and died, not only in the hamlets and the villages, but in cities like Voronezh, destroyed by the war. They moved in throngs, both mothers and infants swollen from hunger. They cooked last year's hay and boiled the bark of birches. They begged for mercy, as they used to in old Russia, for Christ's sake. But we had nothing to give them. We were ourselves hungry. The dead were pretty quickly hauled off, and so tolerable appearances were maintained. Yes, we experienced that terrible hunger. The disgusting thing was to read in the newspapers of the happy life of Soviet people. That is what made us heartsick. That is why we wanted to see everyone fed, clothed, wanted to see no more lies, wanted the accounts in the newspapers to coincide with life itself.

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Source B

From a press release issued by the Communist Information Bureau, headed, 'For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy', 9 December 1949.

The people of the Soviet Union are making enthusiastic preparations for Comrade Stalin's 70th birthday. 21 December will be a day of celebration all over the country. The Presidium has set up a special committee to organise and carry through measures connected with the celebration. Committee members include representatives from the Party, Soviets and trade unions, workers in science, art and literature, and innovators in industry and agriculture.

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In industrial enterprises, on construction sites, in all branches of the national economy, socialist competition is underway in honour of the 70th birthday of Comrade Stalin, the great leader and teacher of the Soviet people. This is carried out under the slogan: "Honour Comrade Stalin's 70th birthday with new output achievements". The genius of the great Stalin has brought the peoples of the Soviet Union onto the glorious road of Communism. The popular preparations to celebrate the 70th birthday of the great Stalin are filled with the boundless gratitude and love for their friend, father and teacher.

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Source C

From the poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko's 'A Precocious Autobiography', recalling his life in Moscow after the war, published in Paris in 1963. Yevtushenko became a political activist after Stalin's death.

Blankly smiling workers and collective farmers looked out from the covers of books. Almost every novel and short story had a happy ending. Stalin's theory that people were the little cogwheels of communism was put into practice and with horrifying results.

Russian poets, who had produced some fine works during the war, turned dull again.

Poets visited factories and construction sites but wrote more about machines than about 5

the men who made them work. If machines could read, they might have found such poems interesting. Human beings did not. Bookstores were cluttered up with books of

poetry which no one wanted. The wartime poets that had raised so many hopes disappeared. Life in peacetime turned out to be more complicated than life at the front.

The greatest Russian poets were consigned to concentration camps or deported. Now 10

that ten years have gone by, I realise that Stalin's greatest crime was not the arrests and the shootings he ordered. His greatest crime was the corruption of the human spirit.

- 0 1** With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying life in the USSR in the immediate post-war years.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 How significant were the actions of the army in the revolution of February/March 1917?
[25 marks]

0 3 'Ideology was of little importance to Stalin in his determination to win the power struggle in the years 1924 to 1929.'

Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'Stalin's foreign policy, in the years 1929 to 1939, was driven solely by the need to protect Soviet borders.'

Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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