

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 7 June 2024

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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a statement issued by the Communist Party (CPSU) Congress, January 1924. The Congress had voted in favour of the policies of the triumvirate of Stalin, Kamenev and Zinoviev.

The opposition headed by Trotsky has tried to accuse the party of a lack of democracy and excessive bureaucracy. Such direct attempts to discredit the party apparatus cannot lead to anything other than the separation of government institutions from the party. The opposition has revealed a completely un-Bolshevik approach to the question of party discipline. This is reminiscent of when Lenin had to struggle against the destructive views of intellectuals in questions of organisation and defend the foundations of proletarian discipline in the party. The opposition has violated the decision made by the Tenth Congress in March 1921 which prohibited the formation of factions within the party. They seek to make the Central Committee an intermediary between factions. This view of the party has nothing in common with Leninism. The opposition is a threat to the unity of the state apparatus. These factional moves by the opposition have strengthened the hopes of all enemies of the party.

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Source B

From a speech given whilst under arrest, to the CPSU Congress, by the economist, Preobrazhensky, 1934. Preobrazhensky was exiled in 1927, returned after denouncing Trotskyism, but was arrested.

In the years 1923 to 1927, I was considered the chief economist of the Trotskyist Opposition. My works, including 'New Economics', which discussed ways of accumulating capital for industrialisation, were used as weapons in the struggle between Stalin and the Left Opposition led by Trotsky. My important error consisted in mechanically comparing our economy with western capitalism and showing a lack of faith in, and contempt for, the Russian peasantry. My views were shared by the Trotskyists, who were committed to 'permanent revolution', supporting the Comintern in fomenting world-wide revolution. Like me, the Trotskyists assumed that socialist change would be a rather long evolutionary process. I had parted company with true Leninism but events wholly disproved what I had asserted. Lenin's views triumphantly became reality under Stalin's leadership. Collectivisation, that is the essential point. Did I foresee collectivisation? I did not. What was needed was Stalin's remarkable far-sightedness, his great courage in facing the problems and applying policies.

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Source C

From private notes of a conversation which he held with Nikolai Bukharin by Lev Kamenev, 11 July 1928. Kamenev's notes were not published until 1993.

Kamenev: Is the leadership struggle really serious?

Bukharin: That's precisely what I wanted to talk about. I feel that Stalin's line is disastrous for the whole revolution. Both of us could be overthrown on account of it. The disagreements between us and Stalin are many times more serious than the disagreements my comrades and I used to have with you. 5

Rykov, Tomsky and I are unanimous in declaring that it would be much better if you and Zinoviev were in the Politburo instead of Stalin. Stalin is an unprincipled intriguer who subordinates everything to the preservation of his own power. He changes his theory according to whom he needs to get rid of. We are becoming a police state. Despite the opposition to him in Leningrad, talk of removing Stalin frightens people and there is a terrible fear of a party split. When Stalin made some concessions he made it difficult for anyone to attack him. We don't want to appear factionalists. 10

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the leadership struggle in the years 1924 to 1929.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent had Bolshevik authority been established in Russia by the end of 1917?
[25 marks]

0 3 'In the 1930s, Stalin's Five Year Plans were a failure.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War was entirely due to Stalin's wartime leadership.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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