

A-level HISTORY

Component 2T The Crisis of Communism: the USSR and the
Soviet Empire, 1953–2000

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 7042/2T.
- 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 an official letter sent to Leonid Brezhnev by Richard Nixon, June 1973. This letter preceded Brezhnev's visit to Washington DC the same month.

I have read with great interest of your visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and your conversations with Chancellor Brandt. The visit was evidently fruitful and both you and the Chancellor are to be congratulated.

We are now preparing for your historic visit to the USA. I am sure the outcome will further strengthen the beneficial relations between our two countries. We have already drafted an agreement on the prevention of nuclear war. I profoundly hope, as I know you do, Mr General Secretary, that in signing it, we will be taking a significant step, not only towards reducing the danger of a devastating nuclear war, but also towards creating conditions in the world where wars of any kind and the use of force will no longer afflict mankind.

5

10

The effect of our prospective agreement would undoubtedly be further enhanced by additional progress towards the limitation of strategic armaments.

We look forward to repaying the splendid hospitality shown to us in the Soviet Union last year.

Source B

From speeches on Afghanistan given to the Central Committee by Leonid Brezhnev and his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrei Gromyko, 23 June 1980. These speeches were minuted for the CPSU.

Brezhnev: Washington is trying to revive the spirit of the Cold War. The ruling circles of the USA stop at nothing, including armed aggression, to try to keep the Afghans from building a new life, in accordance with the ideals of their revolution of April 1978. When we helped our neighbour, Afghanistan, at the request of its government, Washington raised an unprecedented uproar. They accused the Soviet Union of wanting to reach warm waters and make a grab for foreign oil. But in the Soviet assistance to Afghanistan there was no greed whatsoever.

5

Gromyko: It is said the Soviet Union has changed its policy and threatens the West and its interests. No – it is the USA and NATO that have sharply increased their military budgets and whipped up the arms race. In the post-war years it required considerable effort from the Soviet Union to persuade the USA to accept peaceful coexistence. Now Washington is again attempting to do whatever it takes to achieve military superiority over us.

10

Source C

From a letter to a 10-year-old American, Samantha Smith, from Yuri Andropov, April 1983. This reply to a letter sent to Andropov by Samantha was given widespread international media coverage.

Source C not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions.

Source C is a letter from Andropov to Samatha Smith, a 10-year-old American girl. Andropov dismisses fears of nuclear war and a Soviet desire to wage war, writing that the Soviet people 'know what a terrible thing war is'. He suggests that the USSR wants 'to trade and co-operate'.

Andropov paints a child-like picture of the USSR in which people are occupied with 'growing wheat, building and inventing, writing books and flying into space'. He emphasises Russian inventions and the space programme.

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 Soviet foreign and international policy in the years 1973 to 1983.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'The GDR (East Germany) was politically and economically weak in the years 1953 to 1963.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

How significant was the influence of Solidarity in the collapse of Communism in the satellite states in 1989?

[25 marks]

0 4

To what extent did Russia and its people benefit from Yeltsin's presidency, in the years 1991 to 1999?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

