

A-level HISTORY

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

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 an article entitled 'On Co-operation', written by Lenin and published in the official Bolshevik government newspaper, Pravda, in the early months of 1923.

We have overthrown the rule of the exploiters and political power is in the hands of the working class. We have also now found that degree of combination of private commercial interest and state supervision, which was formerly a stumbling block. The power of the state over all large-scale means of production, together with political power in the hands of the proletariat and proletarian leadership of the peasantry, is all that is necessary to build a complete socialist society. The only thing we have left to do is to make our people so enlightened that they understand the advantages of working together through the NEP. An educational revolution now confronts us. This will be sufficient to make our country a complete socialist country, but to achieve this we must achieve a certain development of the economy to give us a base. Our rule must be: as little debating and as few complications as possible. The NEP is an advance because it is adjustable.

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Source B

From a chapter on Moscow in 1923 in 'I Write as I Please', by Walter Duranty, 1935. Duranty was an American journalist based in Moscow in the 1920s.

The NEP must have seemed too good to be true to most of the people of Moscow. Before 1921 it might have pleased the working masses to have been told that they were the sovereign proletariat and better than their former masters, but these fine words did not put food in their bellies or clothes on their backs. To the mass of the workers, the NEP brought jobs that would henceforth be paid in money instead of valueless paper or mouldy rations, and the certainty that with money they could buy the food and necessities of life that had previously been lacking. To the traders, the NEP meant opportunity and the dawn of better days. The most striking features of the NEP were its rapid acceleration, its opportunities for quick and easy profit, and the immense stimulus it gave to employment of all kinds. It brought new energy and growth to Russia's frozen soil. It made the years of the NEP's flourishing, years of national recovery and development.

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Source C

From 'Memoirs of a Revolutionary' by Victor Serge, published in 1951 after his death. Serge was a revolutionary Bolshevik, friend of Zinoviev and wrote when in exile under Stalin.

The New Economic Policy gave some impressive results, but the confusion among the party rank-and-file was staggering. 'For what did we fight?' asked civil war veterans bitterly. I saw that the transition to a period of economic freedom had been an immense and demoralising blunder. Business livens up society, but it was the most corrupt kind of business imaginable. Retail trade passed into the hands of private enterprise which triumphed over the cooperative and state trading systems. Where did the capital, non-existent five years ago, all come from? From robbery and fraudulent speculation. 5

Middlemen doubled the price of everything. Soviet trade was controlled by a flock of vultures. In this respect, NEP was an unquestionable setback. One shabby little character named Plyatsky was at the hub of all corruption and speculation in Leningrad. He sold shares in companies by the dozen, bribed officials in every single department but was not shot because, basically, he was indispensable. The NEP became one big confidence-trick. 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 impact of Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP).

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'From the revolution of October/November 1917 to the new constitution of July 1918, Lenin's only aim was to establish a one-party state.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

To what extent were the purges and terror of 1937–38 due to Stalin's determination to eliminate potential political rivals?

[25 marks]

0 4

How successful were attempts to rebuild the Soviet economy in the years 1945 to 1953?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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