



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2012

## History

## HIS2E

Unit 2E The Reign of Peter the Great of Russia, 1682–1725

Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- An AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2E.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Before the time of Peter the Great, Russia was not powerful, well populated or rich. There was little trade and the White Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Sea of Azov were entirely useless to a nation that had not built a single ship. The Russian army was absolutely ignorant of military discipline. Russian rulers had not encouraged industry  
5 and had neglected agriculture. They could have sent people abroad to learn but religious beliefs prevented this. Russia was in possession of the most extensive lands in the universe and yet nothing had been developed. Then, at last, Peter was born and Russia became a civilised state.

Adapted from VOLTAIRE, *The History of the Russian Empire Under Peter the Great*, 1777

**Source B** Russia at the end of the seventeenth century was, in many ways, weak. Her population was spread thinly over a vast area of largely undeveloped territory. Her only reliable outlet to the sea was in the north, through the port of Archangel, and was therefore blocked by ice for a large part of the year. In the west she was cut  
5 off from the Baltic Sea by the Swedish Empire. In the south, the Ottoman Empire barred her access to the Black Sea. To the powers of Europe, Russia still seemed politically and militarily unimportant, indeed hardly part of the European political system. Moreover, popular resistance to closer relations with Europe, indeed to change of any kind, was still deep-rooted in Russia.

Adapted from M S ANDERSON, *Peter the Great*, 1969

**Source C** There was no tradition of Russian diplomacy and during the Great Northern War Peter attracted little interest and support in the west. After his military success at Poltava, the European powers took him more seriously. Their reactions were, however, mixed. They alternated between courting and trying to contain Russia.  
5 By 1725 there were over twenty-one Russian embassies in Europe, compared with one at the beginning of the reign. Peter arranged a number of royal marriages which linked Russia more closely with other European states. Peter was also able to present Russia as a potential ally to France in 1717; but he did not really achieve what he wanted.

Adapted from S LEE, *Peter the Great*, 1993

**0 1**

Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the reasons why Russia was weak at the beginning of Peter the Great's reign. (12 marks)

**0 2**

Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was Peter the Great able to improve Russia's position as a European power by 1725? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why Peter the Great introduced the Senate in 1711. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'Peter the Great's reforms made the government of Russia effective.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the new capital city at St. Petersburg was unpopular with many people in Russia. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Peter the Great never succeeded in westernising Russia.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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**Question 1 Source B:** Adapted from M S ANDERSON, *Peter the Great*, The Historical Association, 1969

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