



General Certificate of Education  
January 2010  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination

## History

## HIS2E

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

**Wednesday 20 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 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.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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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1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** In order to pay for Peter's numerous reforms and projects, the payment of taxes had to be of primary consideration. The tax-paying ability of the peasantry was one of Peter's main concerns, as is shown by his actions in 1719. In January, he complained to his governors that some landowners so overburdened their peasants  
5 that they were forced to flee. The resulting depopulation caused the Tsar's treasury to suffer. Later that year, on 11 December, Peter instructed the Board of Revenue that 'nobody should be burdened more than is proper, for otherwise the oppressed poor will leave their farms and eventually the revenue will decline'.

Adapted from L A FARROW, 'Peter the Great's Law of Single Inheritance: State Imperatives and Noble Resistance', 1996

**Source B** Taxes crushed every activity of daily life, yet the state never collected enough money. In 1701, the army and navy swallowed up three-quarters of the revenues; in 1710, four-fifths. The soul tax solved Peter's problems of revenue, but at the cost of placing an even heavier burden on the peasants and strengthening the  
5 bonds of serfdom. In the end, Peter's policies were a success for the state and a massive burden for the people. Peter had fought twenty-one years of war, constructed a fleet, a new capital, harbours and canals without the aid of a single foreign loan. Every kopek\* was raised by the toil and sacrifice of the Russian people. They strained, they struggled, they opposed, they cursed. But they  
10 obeyed.

Adapted from R MASSIE, *Peter the Great: His Life and World*, 1982

\*Kopek: low value Russian coin

**Source C** Peter's reign was marked by feverish attempts to find new sources of revenue for his armies. The introduction of a tax on beards, of duties payable on weddings and taverns, and the sale of high-sounding but meaningless honours show this need. Only in 1718 did Peter attempt to put his revenues on a firm footing when  
5 he introduced a poll tax, or 'a tax on souls'. All non-nobles were made to contribute an annual sum for the upkeep of the army. The soul tax proved the most successful of Peter's financial innovations and led to a threefold increase in state revenues.

Adapted from M RADY, *The Tsars, Russia, Poland and the Ukraine*, 1990

(a) 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 Peter the Great's attitude to the condition of his people. (12 marks)

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

How successful were Peter the Great's financial reforms by 1725? (24 marks)

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Explain why the Pruth Campaign of 1711 failed. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Peter the Great ignored diplomatic methods in the pursuit of his foreign policy goals in the years 1695 to 1725.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Explain why Peter the Great introduced the system of colleges into his government in 1718. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Above all, it was a lack of planning which limited the success of Peter the Great’s reforms of government in the years 1690 to 1725.’  
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 C: M RADY, *The Tsars, Russia, Poland and the Ukraine*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1990. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

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