



**General Certificate of Education
June 2012**

AS History 1041

HIS2K

Unit 2K

A New Roman Empire?

Mussolini's Italy, 1922–1945

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all examiners participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each examiner analyses a number of students' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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Generic Introduction for AS

The AS History specification is based on the assessment objectives laid down in QCA's GCE History subject criteria and published in the AQA specification booklet. These cover the skills, knowledge and understanding which are expected of A Level students. Most questions address more than one objective since historical skills, which include knowledge and understanding, are usually deployed together. Consequently, the marking scheme which follows is a 'levels of response' scheme and assesses students' historical skills in the context of their knowledge and understanding of History.

The levels of response are a graduated recognition of how students have demonstrated their abilities in the Assessment Objectives. Students who predominantly address AO1(a) by writing narrative or description will perform at Level 1 or Level 2 depending on its relevance. Students who provide more explanation – (AO1(b), supported by the relevant selection of material, AO1(a)) – will perform at high Level 2 or low-mid Level 3 depending on how explicit they are in their response to the question. Students who provide explanation with evaluation, judgement and an awareness of historical interpretations will be addressing all 3 AOs (AO1(a); AO1(b): AO2(a) and (b) and will have access to the higher mark ranges. AO2(a) which requires the evaluation of source material is assessed in Unit 2.

Differentiation between Levels 3, 4 and 5 is judged according to the extent to which students meet this range of assessment objectives. At Level 3 the answers will show more characteristics of the AO1 objectives, although there should be elements of AO2. At Level 4, AO2 criteria, particularly an understanding of how the past has been interpreted, will be more in evidence and this will be even more dominant at Level 5. The demands on written communication, particularly the organisation of ideas and the use of specialist vocabulary also increase through the various levels so that a student performing at the highest AS level is already well prepared for the demands of A2.

CRITERIA FOR MARKING GCE HISTORY:**AS EXAMINATION PAPERS****General Guidance for Examiners (to accompany Level Descriptors)**

Deciding on a level and the award of marks within a level

It is of vital importance that examiners familiarise themselves with the generic mark scheme and apply it consistently, as directed by the Principal Examiner, in order to facilitate comparability across options.

The indicative mark scheme for each paper is designed to illustrate some of the material that students might refer to (knowledge) and some of the approaches and ideas they might develop (skills). It is not, however, prescriptive and should only be used to exemplify the generic mark scheme.

When applying the generic mark scheme, examiners will constantly need to exercise judgement to decide which level fits an answer best. Few essays will display all the characteristics of a level, so deciding the most appropriate will always be the first task.

Each level has a range of marks and for an essay which has a strong correlation with the level descriptors the middle mark should be given. However, when an answer has some of the characteristics of the level above or below, or seems stronger or weaker on comparison with many other students' responses to the same question, the mark will need to be adjusted up or down.

When deciding on the mark within a level, the following criteria should be considered *in relation to the level descriptors*. Students should never be doubly penalised. If a student with poor communication skills has been placed in Level 2, he or she should not be moved to the bottom of the level on the basis of the poor quality of written communication. On the other hand, a student with similarly poor skills, whose work otherwise matched the criteria for Level 4 should be adjusted downwards within the level.

Criteria for deciding marks within a level:

- The accuracy of factual information
- The level of detail
- The depth and precision displayed
- The quality of links and arguments
- The quality of written communication (grammar, spelling, punctuation and legibility; an appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of ideas, including the use of specialist vocabulary)
- Appropriate references to historical interpretation and debate
- The conclusion

June 2012

GCE AS History Unit 2: Historical Issues: Periods of Change

HIS2K: A New Roman Empire? Mussolini's Italy 1922–1945

Question 1

01 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 Fascist Corporations in Italy. (12 marks)

Target: AO2(a)

Levels Mark Scheme

	Nothing written worthy of credit.	0
L1:	Answers will either briefly paraphrase/describe the content of the two sources or identify simple comparison(s) between the sources. Skills of written communication will be weak.	1-2
L2:	Responses will compare the views expressed in the two sources and identify some differences and/or similarities. There may be some limited own knowledge. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed.	3-6
L3:	Responses will compare the views expressed in the two sources, identifying differences and similarities and using own knowledge to explain and evaluate these. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed.	7-9
L4	Responses will make a developed comparison between the views expressed in the two sources and will apply own knowledge to evaluate and to demonstrate a good contextual understanding. Answers will, for the most part, show good skills of written communication.	10-12

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Effective answers to this question will make a direct comparison of the two sources in the light of own knowledge of the context. Less successful answers will provide a literal account of the evidence of each source in turn, followed by a limited comparison.

Source differences:

- the view in Source B, from Togliatti, is negative, highly critical and damning of the Fascist Corporations. Togliatti claims that the Corporations were formed after all freedoms for the workers had been “crushed”, “denied” and “destroyed”. The tone of Source A, from Mussolini, is very different. Corporations are portrayed as positive

institutions for the Italian workers, to give “political power”, not as an afterthought, when all political power for the workers had been removed, as claimed by Togliatti in Source B

- Mussolini (A) sees the Corporations as the vehicle “through which Italians can improve their standard of life”, this contrasts greatly with Togliatti’s (B) declaration that “this is a falsehood”
- Mussolini in Source A is trying to sell the positive benefits of Corporations to the workers, as an essential element of his “Fascist third way” Corporations were his brainchild. Togliatti, as an Italian Communist in exile, has clear ideological grievances with the Fascist regime
- whilst Mussolini in Source A is exhorting the virtues and the idealised aims of the Corporations, Togliatti in Source B sees the aims of the Corporations differently, for him, they are just another means of repressing the workers.

There are elements of agreement, however:

- both sources agree about the Corporations appealing to the workers
- both sources agree that the official aim of the Corporations was to improve living standards and welfare of the Italian people
- there is an implicit agreement that the Corporations were to give the ordinary Italian people a voice following the removal of democratic institutions.

One feature of high-level responses may be differentiation between the ideological view points of the two sources; another may be skilful explanation of the implicit similarities.

Question 1**02** Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

How successful was Mussolini in developing Italy into a modern industrial nation by 1939? (24 marks)

*Target: AO1(b), AO2(a), AO2(b)***Levels Mark Scheme**

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers may be based on sources or on own knowledge alone, or they may comprise an undeveloped mixture of the two. They may contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
- L2:** Answers may be based on sources or on own knowledge alone, or they may contain a mixture of the two. They may be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the focus of the question. Alternatively, they may contain some explicit comment with relevant but limited support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-11**
- L3:** Answers will show a developed understanding of the demands of the question using evidence from **both** the sources **and** own knowledge. They will provide some assessment backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, but they will lack depth and/or balance. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **12-16**
- L4:** Answers will show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. They will develop a balanced argument backed by a good range of appropriately selected evidence from the sources and own knowledge, and a good understanding of historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, show organisation and good skills of written communication. **17-21**
- L5:** Answers will be well-focused and closely argued. The arguments will be supported by precisely selected evidence from the sources and own knowledge, incorporating well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate. Answers will, for the most part, be carefully organised and fluently written, using appropriate vocabulary. **22-24**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

The focus of this question is on the degree to which Mussolini's policies were successful in developing Italy into a modern industrial nation by 1939. Descriptions of Mussolini's economic policies are not in themselves useful.

Evidence from the sources:

Source A: Corporations were established to “provide the wealth, political power and welfare for the Italian people.” Without the consent and appeasement of the Italian work force the transformation of the Italian economy would be impossible.

Source B: Highlights how the Corporations were introduced after “trade union freedom and freedom of the press had been crushed”. One of the key factors holding back Italian industry between 1919 and 1922 was the trade unions ability to strike.

Source C: “Industry certainly expanded”, “high level of state-financed investment in heavy industry”, but the extent this was due to Mussolini's policies is questionable, “happened regardless of Fascism”, “economic growth under Fascism was not very impressive”.

Effective answers will provide a clear argument and assessment in response to the question ‘how successful?’ Own knowledge and understanding will inform answers with a reasoned argument about the degree of success.

Evidence from own knowledge that Mussolini was successful:

- through the establishment of the Corporations (Sources A and B) and the crushing of the Trade Unions, the number of days lost to strikes in Italy fell dramatically before the Second World War
- due to Fascist economic intervention, Italy was not hit as hard by the Great Depression. Fascist policies such as the IMI and IRI (Source C) protected the Italian economy from the most severe ravages of the Great Depression allowing the industrialisation of Italy to continue
- sections of industry thrived through state investment. Italy became an industrial leader in the production of motor cars, merchant ships, aircraft, chemical production and engineering, all products of a modern industrial economy
- the development of infrastructure (the rail and autostrada networks) under the Fascist regime was fundamental to Italy's ability to develop a modern economy
- the Fascist regime extended the electrification of Italy and developed hydro-electric power.

Evidence from own knowledge that Mussolini was not successful:

- Mussolini's shopping list to Hitler in 1939 as an excuse to stay out of the conflict which would escalate into the Second World War. This illustrated the failure of autarky
- the extent to which the little economic gains fascist economic policy had made were wiped out by Mussolini's foreign policy ambitions in Africa and Spain (Source C) and the imposition of sanctions by the League of Nations
- the Corporate State (Source A and Source B) did not emerge as a means of ending damaging class warfare, class conflict intensified between the “Winners” (the elite and middle classes) and the “Losers” (the workers and peasantry). Production was not rationalised and inefficiencies and mass bureaucracy grew
- the Fascist ideological policy of ruralisation was counter-productive to the expansion of Italian industry
- the gap between the urban, industrialised North and rural South widened under Mussolini's regime

- the revaluation of the Lira ravaged export industries, particularly textiles and cars.

Factors which held back Fascist attempts at modernisation, such as Mussolini's over ambitious foreign policy, the lack of natural resources, worldwide economic depression and the lack of total Fascist control of the economy, will be clearly appreciated in higher level responses. It could also be argued that the period which saw the greatest transformation of the Italian economy was under De Stefani, before the centralisation of the economy under the Fascists and that Italy benefited from the post-war boom in the mid-1920s. As ever with Mussolini, his propaganda claims to have transformed Italy into a modern industrial nation fell way short of the reality.

Question 2

- 03** Explain why the King did not dismiss Mussolini following the Matteotti Affair of 1924. (12 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b)

Levels Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will contain either some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-2**
- L2:** Answers will demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they will provide some explanations backed by evidence that is limited in range and/or depth. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **3-6**
- L3:** Answers will demonstrate good understanding of the demands of the question providing relevant explanations backed by appropriately selected information, although this may not be full or comprehensive. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **7-9**
- L4:** Answers will be well-focused, identifying a range of specific explanations, backed by precise evidence and demonstrating good understanding of the connections and links between events/issues. Answers will, for the most part, be well-written and organised. **10-12**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Answers should be able to present a range of reasons for the king's refusal to dismiss Mussolini in 1924; the best responses will differentiate according to relative importance of particular factors. Reasons might include:

- the king's weak and indecisive nature, as illustrated previously in October 1922
- the king feared that if he removed Mussolini a fascist coup would see him replaced by his cousin, Duke Aosta, a pro-fascist supporter
- as Matteotti was an independent socialist, his murder re-opened the possibility of a civil war in Italy through a strengthening of the revolutionary Left if the King dismissed Mussolini. The king feared a repetition of the fate of the Romanovs in Russia if the Left gained strength in Italy
- there was a clear lack of an alternative leader for the King to turn to. The Liberals and Conservatives in the Chamber encouraged the King to manipulate the crisis and take the advantage to secure concessions from a weakened and vulnerable Mussolini
- Mussolini's actions following the murder of Matteotti illustrated how he was willing to compromise with the elites and tame the earliest fascists within his own party, therefore

the elite within Italy, including the Church and the Army, thought it more useful to work with a weakened Mussolini than a regime without him.

Ultimately the King was reluctant to dismiss Mussolini following the Matteotti murder because he was determined to hold onto his throne, the longer Victor Emmanuel vacillated the greater Mussolini's opportunity to persuade him that the fascists, headed by Il Duce, were needed in government.

Question 2

- 04** 'The use of terror was the key reason why Mussolini was able to secure his dictatorship in Italy in the years 1924 to 1929.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Levels Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers may **either** contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question **or** they may address only a limited part of the period of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
- L2:** Answers will show some understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they may contain some explicit comment with relevant but limited support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-11**
- L3:** Answers will show a developed understanding of the demands of the question. They will provide some assessment, backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, but they will lack depth and/or balance. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **12-16**
- L4:** Answers will show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. They will develop a balanced argument backed by a good range of appropriately selected evidence and a good understanding of historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, show organisation and good skills of written communication. **17-21**
- L5:** Answers will be well-focused and closely argued. The arguments will be supported by precisely selected evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate. Answers will, for the most part, be carefully organised and fluently written, using appropriate vocabulary. **22-24**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

The focus of this question is on the extent to which Mussolini's consolidation of power between the Matteotti Affair and 1929 was dependent upon the use of fascist violence. Even in 1924, the new regime was fragile and dependent on several factors outside Mussolini's control; the Matteotti affair showed he was still vulnerable. By 1929 he was infinitely more secure with far greater freedom of action but the extent this was due to fascist violence is questionable.

Many factors enabled Mussolini to complete the consolidation of power. Fascist terror and intimidation was one aspect. Other factors included the compromises with the Church and the other elites; propaganda and Mussolini's positive impact on public opinion; the mistakes by the left opposition; his success in controlling the disparate elements of his own sprawling Fascist movement; the impact of early policy successes in foreign affairs and the economy. The balance of evidence in answers will depend on what factors are argued to hold the most importance.

Evidence that Fascist terror was the most important reason why the consolidation of power process was accomplished might include:

- terror and violence of the Fascist party during the 1924 election secured the two-thirds majority in the Chamber, which saw Mussolini free to pass the legislation which secured his dictatorship
- in the summer of 1925 unrestricted use of fascist violence and terror saw the opposition to the regime flee Italy
- the 1926 Special Tribunal extended the punishment of execution to political crimes
- the OVRA established in 1927 had a network of informers, the threat of which terrorised the Italian population into conforming with the regime
- the fear of internal exile, confine, also terrorised Italians into conforming with Fascism
- terror was used against the radicals within the PNF to ensure discipline and maintain elite support. Therefore fascist terror "tamed" the PNF.

Thus it can be argued between 1924 and 1926/7 Fascist terror was very important in reducing opposition to the creation of the Fascist dictatorship. The lack of visible opposition reassured the elites that Mussolini's regime was returning Italy back to normality.

Counter argument

However, the Fascist dictatorship was not built around terror alone. Indeed at times Fascist terror was damaging and threatened the stability of the dictatorship, particularly in 1924 when the untamed terror of the PNF oversaw the murder of Matteotti. The ensuing crisis saw Mussolini's regime almost toppled and very vulnerable. In addition it can be argued that Mussolini's use of terror was limited post 1926 as there were fewer than 5000 political prisoners and only 9 people were executed for political crimes between 1927 and 1940.

Therefore it can be argued that other factors/methods/tactics were important:

- the surrender by the King and old politicians like Salandra in the beginning
- the powerful effect of anti-communism in gaining support for the fascist regime
- the extent to which the Corporate State appealed to business
- the compromises the regime had to make with the elite following the Matteotti crisis post 1924, e.g. army swearing loyalty to the king, not Mussolini, the Lateran Pacts of 1929
- the establishment of legal controls and a one-party state
- propaganda, lack of freedom of speech and the cult of Il Duce.

Question 3

05 Explain why the Salo Republic collapsed in 1945. (12 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b)

Levels Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will contain either some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-2**
- L2:** Answers will demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they will provide some explanations backed by evidence that is limited in range and/or depth. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **3-6**
- L3:** Answers will demonstrate good understanding of the demands of the question providing relevant explanations backed by appropriately selected information, although this may not be full or comprehensive. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **7-9**
- L4:** Answers will be well-focused, identifying a range of specific explanations, backed by precise evidence and demonstrating good understanding of the connections and links between events/issues. Answers will, for the most part, be well-written and organised. **10-12**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

Students may refer to some of the following long-term factors:

- the failure of Mussolini's social policies to create a nation of loyal Fascists meant that the Salo Republic only appealed to a minority of Italians, therefore the Republic collapsed due to a lack of popular support

and some of the following short-term/immediate factors:

- Mussolini's rebranding of Fascism for the Salo Republic included the adoption of Republicanism, which ensured that the RSI did not have the support of the traditional pillars of Italian society, which had been crucial to Mussolini's regime between 1922 and 1943
- Mussolini was a shadow of his former self due to illness. His regime had depended upon the strength of the Cult of Il Duce. Increasingly the gap between propaganda and reality widened so much between 1943–1945 that only the most ardent Fascists of the Black Brigades were willing to sacrifice themselves for the Salo Republic
- the Salo Republic lacked legitimacy, Mussolini was a puppet dictator who had to answer to the Germans. The Salo Republic's fortunes were intertwined with those of Nazi

Germany as Nazi armed forces defended the Republic. As the tide turned against the Nazis in 1944-45 the collapse of the Salo Republic became increasingly likely

- the cruelty and repression of the Nazi occupation increased the desire within Italy for an end to the war. The Resistance movement grew in numbers and intensity so that by the National Uprising of April 1945 it was the partisans who forced the surrender of the Nazis in key cities of the Salo Republic.

Ultimately the fortunes of the Salo Republic relied upon the strength of the German armed forces as it was a puppet state created to buffer Germany from the Allied invasion.

Question 3

- 06** 'Mussolini was dismissed in July 1943 because of the long-term failures of Italian Fascism.
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Levels Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers may **either** contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question **or** they may address only a limited part of the period of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
- L2:** Answers will show some understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they may contain some explicit comment with relevant but limited support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-11**
- L3:** Answers will show a developed understanding of the demands of the question. They will provide some assessment, backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, but they will lack depth and/or balance. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **12-16**
- L4:** Answers will show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. They will develop a balanced argument backed by a good range of appropriately selected evidence and a good understanding of historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, show organisation and good skills of written communication. **17-21**
- L5:** Answers will be well-focused and closely argued. The arguments will be supported by precisely selected evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate. Answers will, for the most part, be carefully organised and fluently written, using appropriate vocabulary. **22-24**

Indicative content

Note: This content is not prescriptive and students are not obliged to refer to the material contained in this mark scheme. Any legitimate answer will be assessed on its merits according to the generic levels scheme.

The key to effective answers is an understanding of the reasons why Mussolini was dismissed in July 1943. Students may take the approach that the collapse of the Fascist regime was clear from the entry into WWII in 1940 due to the long term failures of Italian Fascism, or that it was not until the Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943 that the decision to remove Mussolini was made.

Evidence that the collapse of the regime was due to the long term failures of Italian Fascism might include:

- the long-term weakness of the Italian economy, drained by small wars of conquest since 1935 was a key reason for failure in World War Two which led to Mussolini's dismissal. Mussolini himself realised that Italy would not be ready for war until 1943 at the earliest
- Fascist social policies had clearly failed to create a nation of warriors willing to sacrifice themselves for the nation. The extent of this was revealed in the lack of a public uprising when Mussolini was dismissed in 1943, as Hitler is reported to have said, "What sort of Fascism is this that melts in the sun?"
- the fact that the regime had to intensify its programme of fascistisation for 1937-38 indicates that Fascist indoctrination had failed prior to this. There was growing discontent from Italian society towards the regime's attempts at fascistisation from 1938 and the growing close relationship with the Nazi regime (particularly from the Catholic Church). Therefore the alienation of the Italian public was clearly apparent prior to the war and intensified during the war years
- the regime was very concerned about maintaining popular support during the war. Mussolini was so determined, for reasons of morale and propaganda to maintain the appearance of peacetime normality within Italy. Rationing of food and consumer goods was delayed for as long as possible to maintain popular support. This indicates that the regime knew that its social policies had failed to indoctrinate the nation to the warrior ideals of Fascism
- Fascism was built upon compromises with the Italian elite, the regime was by no means totalitarian. Fascist messages were diluted by the predominance of the Catholic Church in education (secured by the 1929 Lateran Pact). The Fascist revolution was incomplete and further compromised by Mussolini's removal of the most ardent Fascists in 1924-26. Mussolini was a prime minister appointed by the King and could be dismissed by the King, as he was in July 1943.

However, the long term failures of Fascism were not solely responsible for the collapse of the regime. It can be argued that it was the experience of the war which led to Mussolini's removal from power.

Counter-argument:

- entry into the war brought a temporary unity which was not broken until 1942 at the earliest
- war time production increased and there were very few labour disputes. The majority of the public shows of discontent were not aimed at the regime. They were primarily attempts to improve working conditions, food supplies etc
- the Italians' disastrous record in World War Two was due to Mussolini's poor leadership as head of the armed forces
- Mussolini himself was ultimately responsible for his own downfall. He increasingly believed his own propaganda and antagonised members of the Fascist Grand Council by dismissing key ministers who disagreed with his military decisions in the Spring of 1943
- Mussolini was not removed by a popular uprising in July 1943, but by a palace coup headed by the King and the Fascist Grand Council.

Ultimately, Mussolini was removed due to the disastrous Italian war effort, but the roots of this disaster can be traced back to earlier Fascist failings. The key is balance. Answers must show an appreciation of the impact of the war on the Fascist regime and not just focus on the long-term failings of the regime.

Converting marks into UMS marks

Convert raw marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by using the link below.

UMS conversion calculator: www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion