



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## History

## HIS2L

Unit 2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924–1941

Tuesday 22 May 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 HIS2L.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- 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.  
Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** The First Five-Year Plan was basically fulfilled in four years and three months. This was a great victory for the Soviet people. The country had developed automobile, tractor, aircraft, chemical, machine-tool and many other industries. Industrial output had risen by the end of the Plan by 170 per cent compared with the 1913 figure.

5 However, the Plan's targets were not always reached. Despite the substantial increase in coal and iron production, the Plan's targets for these industries remained unfulfilled, as a direct consequence of shortcomings in planning and organisation. Nevertheless, by the end of the Plan, the USSR was an advanced industrial power. Socialist economic organisation had triumphed completely, transforming the whole

10 economy to a new technological level. This strengthened the leading role of the working class in Soviet society.

Adapted from Y KUKUSHKIN, *History of the USSR: An Outline of Socialist Construction*, 1981

**Source B** Public ownership was not sufficient to make everything go according to plan. New resources were created, but at the same time existing resources were destroyed. Reduced efficiency was reflected in underused capacity, lost output and wasted investments. The First Five-Year Plan culminated in industrial crisis and famine.

5 Stalinist politicians demanded fulfilment of the Plan at all costs, launching new campaigns of mass mobilisation. Failures and demoralisation halted expansion. By 1932, the economy was in a mess. Those who benefited included workers who upgraded their skills or who became foremen and managers. Losers were those left behind or trodden down by the process of change or victimised by the security

10 forces. Workers frequently evaded regulations and distorted information in order to lessen the effects of unworkable or unpopular policies.

Adapted from J BARBER and M HARRISON, *The Soviet Home Front 1941–1945*, 1991

**Source C** The Second Five-Year Plan was more realistic than the First and paid greater attention to consumer goods. There was a vast rise in productivity from the abysmal levels of 1933. The sacrifices of the early thirties were worthwhile. Huge new industrial complexes came into operation. Centralised planning had many

5 fundamental weaknesses, yet the system had an overall advantage. It enabled the leadership to concentrate resources on its priorities, which would have been difficult to achieve under a democracy.

Adapted from A NOVE, *Stalinism and After*, 1975

0	1
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 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 First Five-Year Plan in the USSR. (12 marks)

and

0	2
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 Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How successful were Stalin's economic policies in strengthening the USSR's industrial economy by the outbreak of war in 1941? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

0	3
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 Explain why, in the mid-1920s, Stalin favoured the policy of 'Socialism in One Country'.  
(12 marks)

and

0	4
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 'The New Economic Policy was an economic disaster for the USSR.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

**OR****Question 3**

0	5
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 Explain why Stalin believed Kirov was a threat to his own position. (12 marks)

and

0	6
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 'The Great Terror weakened the USSR in the years 1936 to 1941.'  
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: Adapted from A NOVE, *Stalinism and After*, George, Allen and Unwin, 1975.

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