

A-level HISTORY

Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

Wednesday 13 June 2018 Afternoon 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 7042/2L.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From 'The Proletarian Nations and Nationalism', by Enrico Corradini, published 1911. Corradini was a writer and a Nationalist. He was a founder of the Italian Nationalist Association in 1910.

We must seek to discover the reasons why Italy does not possess any developed national awareness. We must start by recognising that she does not possess one, because she cannot. And here are the reasons why she cannot:

First of all, until quite recently, Italy had, in fact, never been a nation.

Secondly, Italy has never had, and still does not have, a national language except in literature. 5

Thirdly, she was created with little fighting and little revolution.

Fourthly, Italy was created as a result of the efforts of too many people, often in conflict among themselves and these conflicts persisted and still persist.

Fifthly, Italy too quickly declined into the class struggle. 10

Finally, Italy – and this could not be otherwise because of the smallness of the revolution which created her – fell into the hands of politicians who are the dregs of traditions and people already decadent and decaying under a regime of tiny, timid government.

Source B

From 'My Autobiography', by Benito Mussolini, published 1928. Mussolini was raised in Romagna in the agricultural north.

Manual labour in my father's blacksmith's shop was not the only common interest we shared. It was inevitable that I should find a clearer understanding of political questions. I could not follow, as a child, the arguments around the table, nor did I grasp the reasons for the watchfulness and measures taken by the police. But slowly I turned my spirit and my mind to new political ideals. 5

I began with my young eyes to see that the world around was uneasy under the pinch of necessity. A deep and secret grudge was darkening the hearts of the common people. A country gentry of little economic usefulness and of limited intellect was hanging upon the masses a weight of unjustified privileges. These were sad dark years, not only in my own province, but in other parts of Italy. I must have marks upon my memory of the resentful and secret protests of those who came to talk with my father. 10

Source C

From a speech by Giovanni Pascoli, a poet, delivered shortly after the start of the Libyan war in 1911.

Just fifty years after its return to life, Italy, the great martyr among nations, has done its duty and contributed to the advancement and civilisation of the peoples and asserted its right not to be penned in and suffocated in its own waters. Oh fifty years of miracle! What a transformation there has been! Whoever wishes to know what Italy is now, behold its army and its navy. Land, sea and sky, mountains and plains, are perfectly fused. The fair-skinned solemn Alpine soldier fights beside the slim dark Sicilian, the tall Lombard grenadier rubs shoulders with the short lean Sardinian fusilier.

5

Run your eyes over the lists of the glorious dead and wounded, you will find yourself remembering and revising the geography of what was, but a short time ago, a geographical expression. Oh you blessed men who have died for the Fatherland! Fifty years ago Italy was made. Now you have proved that Italians too have been made.

10

0 1

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Italy in the early years of the 20th century.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'Mussolini became Prime Minister in 1922 because the Fascists could offer strong government.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent had Mussolini's social policies created a 'nation of fascists' by 1940?

[25 marks]

0 4 'The consequences of the invasion of Abyssinia were disastrous for both Mussolini and Italy by 1940.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, from the November 2015 examination series, acknowledgements of third party copyright material will be published in a separate booklet rather than including them on the examination paper or support materials. This booklet is published after each examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk after the live examination series.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Copyright © 2018 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

