
A-level HISTORY

The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953–2000

Paper 2T

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **2T**
- 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.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Adapted from an article by Mikhail Gorbachev, printed in *Izvestiya* in January 1987. *Izvestiya* was a daily paper published by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and was used to educate the people on Soviet government policies.

To put an end to all the rumours and speculations that abound in the West about socialism, I would like to point out once again that we are conducting all our reforms in accordance with the socialist choice. We are looking within socialism, rather than outside it, for the answers to all the questions that arise. We assess our successes and errors alike by socialist standards. Those who hope that we shall move away from the socialist path will be greatly disappointed. Every part of our programme of perestroika – is fully based on the principle of more socialism and more democracy. We are saying this honestly, without trying to fool our own people or the world. Any hopes that we will begin to build a different, non-socialist society and go over to the other camp are unrealistic and futile. It's my conviction that the human race has entered a stage where we are all dependent on each other. That's what our communist vocabulary calls internationalism and it means promoting universal human values.

Source B

Adapted from a speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, 28 June 1988 at the opening of the Soviet Party Conference.

Comrade delegates, the basic question facing us is how to further the perestroika (revolutionary restructuring) launched in our country on the initiative and under the leadership of the Party and make it irreversible. That calls for radical solutions and vigorous and imaginative action. Representation of working people in the top layer of government should be extended considerably. The new deputies, elected for a five year term, would comprise a new representative supreme government body – the Congress of the USSR People's Deputies. The economy is gradually gaining pace, but for how long are we to revolve around the vicious circle of outdated notions and formulas, such as production for the sake of production and following the plan for the sake of following the plan? Perestroika has brought the question of people's political rights into sharp focus. We have no right to permit perestroika to flounder.

Source C

Adapted from, 'Gorbachev and Glasnost – A new social order?' by Thomas M Magstadt. This was published in the US Journal, 'Policy Analysis' in March 1989. Magstadt was chairman of the political science department at Kearney State College, USA.

Gorbachev is no doubt sincere about economic restructuring and reform, because without these, the Soviet Union faces a period of decline. Glasnost (openness) is the price Gorbachev must pay to get Soviet workers behind perestroika (which entails risks and sacrifices, especially in the short run). Democratisation has been superficial up to this point, although some signs, such as the occasional dissenting votes cast in the Supreme Soviet, hint at new possibilities. The elections scheduled for 1989 will reveal whether Gorbachev is at all serious about creating a more democratic society. Meanwhile, without political restructuring which means democratisation, glasnost could end as abruptly as it began.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these sources to an historian studying Gorbachev's reforms within the USSR.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer two questions.

0 2

To what extent did Khrushchev bring about a 'great thaw' within the Soviet Union during his years in power?

[25 marks]**0 3**

'A successful socialist society.'

Assess the validity of this view of the GDR under Honecker's leadership.

[25 marks]**0 4**

To what extent was the collapse of the Soviet Empire in central and Eastern Europe in 1989 due to 'people power'?

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS**

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