History
Advanced Subsidiary
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

Wednesday 18 May 2016 – Afternoon
Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Instructions
• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• There are three sections in this question paper. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE question from Section B and the question in Section C.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information
• The total mark for this paper is 60.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Advice
• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

1  Was state propaganda the main reason for the Soviet regime’s control over its people in the years 1917–53?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2  Was Khrushchev’s limited reform of the Soviet government the main reason for the regime’s growing political stagnation in the years 1964–82?

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☑.

Chosen question number:  Question 1 ☐ Question 2 ☐
(Section A continued)
SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 How far, in the years 1953–85, did the priorities for Soviet industry and agriculture change?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4 How far do you agree that the most significant Soviet social development in the years 1917–85 was the improved status of women?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ✖ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☑.

Chosen question number:  Question 3 ☐  Question 4 ☐
SECTION C

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

Historians have different views about the reasons for the fall of the Soviet Union. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your own knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that the Soviet Union collapsed because of Gorbachev’s failure to deal with the challenge of nationalism?

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(Section C continued)
Extracts for use with Section C.


Until the very end Gorbachev resisted the break-up of the USSR, but it was his insistence on *glasnost* and his reservations about the use of force that made this break-up possible. Multinational empires always present problems and this was made worse in the USSR's case by the absence of natural frontiers separating the nations within the Soviet Union. The Bolshevik solution of a confederation of national territories with small, varying degrees of self-government had proved to be workable so long as the central Soviet regime kept nationalist feelings under tight control. Under Gorbachev, *glasnost*, the preference for political rather than authoritarian solutions, and the election of genuine republican parliaments gave pent-up national feeling an opportunity of expression. Gorbachev did not foresee the extent to which *perestroika* would be undermined by nationalism. He foresaw friction but not the grinding, unrelenting movement towards independence from centralised Soviet power.


After 1980 the Soviet economy went into rapid decline. This meant a drop in living standards for most people. Gorbachev's attempts at economic reform provoked a collapse. One of the reasons for this was that economic reform needs time to produce positive results, but Gorbachev was impatient and introduced more radical reforms to accelerate growth. He eventually wrecked the system because he was quite unqualified for the role he had to play. He had little understanding of economics. This meant he was influenced by economists who promised him success. When it did not happen, he listened to more radical economists. None of these economists had ever worked in a market economy, let alone industry. They were all theorists who assumed that the planned economy was endlessly flexible. Hence they had no understanding of the consequences of any of their reforms.