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

Friday 9 June 2017 – Morning
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  How accurate is it to say that the nature of government under Lenin and Stalin was markedly different?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2  How far do you agree that the benefits of Stalin’s economic policies outweighed the costs in the years 1928–50?

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
SECTION A

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 B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 How accurate is it to say that the status of women was transformed under Soviet rule in the years 1917–85?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4 How significant was the role of the secret police in maintaining communist control in the years 1917–85?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
SECTION B

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 B continued)
SECTION C

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

5 In the light of differing interpretations, how convincing do you find the view that the USSR collapsed in 1991 because Gorbachev's confidence in his reform policies 'proved gravely misplaced' (Extract 1, line 9)?

To explain your answer, analyse and evaluate the material in both extracts, using your own knowledge of the issues.

(20)
Extracts for use with Section C.


The end of the Soviet Union was triggered by the new General Secretary appointed in 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev. He changed the USSR’s foreign policy. He attempted to accelerate industrial growth and later began to dismantle many of the structures of the command economy. He radically loosened the rigour of censorship and the scope for questioning the certainties of Marxism-Leninism. He instigated dramatic reform of the party and of the entire political system, introducing competitive elections both at the All-Union level and within each Republic. His confidence that the result would be the revitalisation of the Soviet Union proved gravely misplaced. The attempt to reform society from above unleashed forces for change which the government proved wholly unable to control. It undermined the economy, turning stagnation into steep decline. It ignited a cultural and ideological revolution that swiftly stripped the regime of its legitimacy and ruptured the Communist Party. It set off an explosion which ripped apart the Soviet system and fractured the country along the fault-lines of the fifteen constituent Union Republics. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for so long a major fixture in international relations, disappeared into history.

**Extract 2:** From Raymond Pearson, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire*, published 2002.

A complex interaction of overthrow from below – ‘people power’ – and collapse from above brought about the events of 1989 across the Soviet empire of Eastern Europe. This deadly combination of predominantly nationalist pressure and Soviet imperial withdrawal spread east to contaminate the USSR itself during 1990–91.

Another major shortcoming was the Soviet Union’s inefficient and wasteful economic performance. By the time Gorbachev was promoting ideas on the desirability and practicability of a mixed economy in the late 1980s, a doomed atmosphere of ‘too little too late’ hung over the commitment to perestroika. By its last decade, the sprawling, outdated and dysfunctional economy of the Soviet Empire could neither deliver the welfare state by fulfilling the economic and social expectations of its population nor supply the warfare state by satisfying the spiralling financial and technological demands of the Cold War. By 1990, financial bankruptcy ensured that the stricken Soviet Union could sustain neither role.

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