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 Stalin's use of terror in the 1930s was fundamentally similar to Lenin's use of terror in the years 1918–24?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2 How far do you agree that the successes of Soviet economic policy outweighed the failures in the years 1945–64?

(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 Soviet government restrictions on artistic and cultural expression remained unchanged in the years 1917–85?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4  How significant was employment for the promotion of a stable Soviet society in the years 1953–85?

(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 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 of the consequences of Gorbachev’s political reforms?

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.


In 1990 Gorbachev loosened the electoral structure one stage further. He amended Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution to end the Communist Party’s monopoly and legalised the formation of alternative political parties. At the time, elections to the Supreme Soviets of the union republics were imminent and these elections transformed the political scene yet again. For one thing, they fatally weakened the Communist Party’s executive power: more or less since 1917 it had been the effective focus of state authority, coordinating and directing whatever was undertaken by public bodies. Its abdication of this function left a great vacuum at the centre of politics. Gorbachev attempted to fill it by creating the post of President of the USSR and having himself elected to it by the Congress of People’s Deputies. But the new presidency had no real executive chain of command of its own. In any case, Gorbachev, never having been confirmed by popular election, lacked the legitimacy of, say, a US president. This lack of either symbolic or actual authority undermined him fatally over the next 18 months as economic crisis and inter-ethnic conflict engulfed his reform programme.


Economically, perestroika had a lot in common with the NEP. It rested on the hopeful assumption that market mechanisms could be added to the structures of the planned economy to stimulate production and satisfy consumer needs. State controls on wages and prices were loosened by a 1987 Law on State Enterprises. Co-operatives were legalised in 1988, resulting in a NEP-like sprouting up of cafés, restaurants and small shops or kiosks, selling mostly vodka (now re-legalised), cigarettes and pornographic videos imported from abroad. But these measures failed to ease the shortages of food and essential household goods. Inflation increased, aggravated by the lifting of controls on wages and prices. Only the dismantling of the planned economy could have solved the crisis. But ideologically that was impossible until 1989, when Gorbachev began to break free from the Soviet way of thinking. Even then it was too radical for him to legislate until August 1990, when the 500-Day Plan for the transition to a market-based economy was at last introduced by the Supreme Soviet. But by then it was too late to halt the economic crash.

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