You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

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

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon
Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

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 Stalin’s personality the main reason for the purges of the 1930s in the Soviet Union?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2. Was the failure of central planning the main reason for the decline of the Soviet economy in the years 1964–85?

(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 leaders, in the years 1953–85, pursued similar policies on religion?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4 How accurate is it to say that government educational policy improved the lives of the Soviet population 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 C

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

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

How far do you agree with the view that the collapse of the Soviet Union came about because of the role played by Boris Yeltsin?

(20)
(Section C continued)
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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Do not return this booklet with the question paper.
Extracts for use with Section C.


By summer 1990, Yeltsin, now openly opposed by Gorbachev, was elected president of the Russian Republic. Strengthened by his new status and Lithuania’s declaration of independence, Yeltsin got his parliament to declare Russian sovereignty. Other republics also made similar declarations of independence and it was clear that the central USSR government was losing authority. Yeltsin also led the opposition to the August 1991 attempted coup and was rightly seen as the hero of the hour. Over the next few days, he took the opportunity to crush the Communist Party, once and for all. He suspended the activities of the Communist Party in the Russian Republic. During the rest of 1991, the transfer of power from Gorbachev’s USSR to the republics was unstoppable with Yeltsin setting the pace and Gorbachev fighting to preserve the union. At the end of 1991, with republics collecting and keeping taxes and the Ukraine voting for independence, it became clear that the USSR was coming to an end.


Several of the principal features of communism in the USSR were being undermined by Gorbachev’s reforming activity: the one party state, the ideological control, the militant atheism, the centralised administration and the state economic monopoly. Perestroika had become a project for total transformation. It was scarcely surprising that many senior Soviet figures, including several he had promoted, were shocked. Gorbachev was encouraging the disintegration of the existing Soviet system by his actions, if not by his deliberate purpose. His background prevented him from seeing clearly where his path of transformation was leading. While wanting a market economy, he did not think this would involve much capitalism. While approving of national self-expression, he opposed the idea of any republic breaking away from the USSR. While wishing to replace traditional communist officials with energetic newcomers, he often chose newcomers who had no serious commitment to reform.

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