

A-level HISTORY

Component 2T The Crisis of Communism: the USSR and the
Soviet Empire, 1953–2000

Wednesday 5 June 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2T.
- 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.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a United States (US) National Security Council Report on policy towards the Soviet satellite states, 3 July 1956.

The great majority of the population in each satellite state is anti-Communist. This anti-Communism is intensified particularly by everyday life – agricultural and industrial exploitation, the loss of personal freedom and a reduced standard of living, as well as by outraged religious and nationalist feelings. On the other hand, the many changes in the USSR since the death of Stalin are being reflected in current satellite state developments. These developments have varied in pace and scope in each of the satellites and are continuing, but common to them all are a reduction in the role of oppression and the secret police. There is a new emphasis on the need for ‘socialist legality’ and an admission of past errors attributed to the ‘cult of personality’. There are indications that the satellites are now enjoying greater freedoms and are beginning to demonstrate greater responsibility in the conduct of their own affairs, making decisions on matters of local detail.

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Source B

From the decree establishing the Free German Youth (FDJ), written by the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), May 1959.

The FDJ unites the youth on a voluntary basis. The FDJ leads the entire youth on the path of struggle for peace, for the completion of the building up of Socialism in the GDR, against militarism and nuclear armament in West Germany, and for the national re-birth of Germany as a peace-loving, democratic state on the road to a confederation of the two German states. The FDJ helps all young people to become young patriots who are fully educated, cultured, and healthy. The FDJ aims to educate the youth to become healthy persons, to develop in it qualities such as courage, strength, and endurance, and to promote agility and grace. In the spirit of brotherly bonds, the FDJ champions a deepening of relations with young workers in West Germany. It supports all measures by West German youth organisations that serve peace and the creation of democratic conditions. The FDJ is comrade to all young patriots of West Germany who advocate peace and the happiness of the young generation.

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Source C

From a speech by Nikita Khrushchev on the satellite states, delivered to the 22nd Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) Congress, October 1961.

The Soviet Union is inhabited by more than a hundred nations and nationalities and, with its satellite states, many more. Socialist society has not only guaranteed the political equality of the satellite states but has also abolished economic and cultural inequality. Under socialism, the satellite states flourish and their sovereignty grows stronger. The development of the satellite states does not proceed along the lines of promoting national strife, but along lines of association, mutual assistance and friendship. People of many nationalities live together and work in harmony in the USSR and Soviet satellite states. Everywhere, new industrial centres, the development of mineral deposits, virgin land development and the growth of all modes of transport have increased the mobility of the population and promoted greater relations between different peoples. Since all are equal, their lives are based on a common socialist foundation and their material and spiritual needs are satisfied to the same extent. They are all united in a single family.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying life in the Soviet satellite states in the years 1956 to 1961.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'There was no improvement in the lives of ordinary people in the USSR under Brezhnev.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 3 How successful was Gorbachev as leader of the USSR in the years 1985 to 1988?
[25 marks]

0 4 'The problems in Romania and Bulgaria in the years 1980 to 1989 were mainly caused by a lack of political reform.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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