

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

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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 7042/2L.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A****Answer Question 01.**

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**Source A**

From the motion drawn up by Grandi, a Fascist, and presented to the Fascist Grand Council, 24/25 July 1943. Grandi was critical of the Italian war effort under Mussolini.

The Grand Council, meeting at this time of great hazard, turns its thoughts first of all to the heroic warriors of the Armed Forces who fight shoulder to shoulder with the proud people of Sicily. Having examined the internal and international situation and the political and military conduct of the war, the Grand Council proclaims the duty of all Italians to defend at all costs the unity, independence and liberty of the Motherland, the fruits of the sacrifice of the labour of four generations since unification, and the life and future of the Italian people. 5

The Grand Council invites the Head of Government, Mussolini, to request His Majesty the King – towards whom the nation turns with faith and confidence – that the King may be pleased, for the honour and salvation of the nation, to assume the supreme leadership of the country. This is what our institutions attribute to him and which, in all our national history, has always been the glorious heritage of our respected royal family of Savoy. 10

**Source B**

From a confidential report for internal use written by the German government, August 1943.

The Italian crisis of 25 July has its origins in the events of the already distant past. Grave signs of internal decay, especially corruption, the lack of a clear lead and, above all, the presence of totally unqualified persons in leading positions, had long discredited the Fascist regime in the eyes of the entire nation. Nevertheless, outright revolution seemed hardly possible. At no time had determined opposition to the Duce in fact existed, whether in the Party, the Army, or the nation at large. 5

In the grave crisis which has befallen Italy, a very significant part has been played by two factors: the Duce's long-standing illness and his inadequacy as a military leader. The Grand Fascist Council met on 24/25 July. The course of this extremely stormy session can be regarded as largely known and explained. It was only Grandi and Ciano who were working towards the Duce's overthrow. However, the leadership of the Fascist Party completely broke down and no one was loyal to the Duce at the last. 10

**Source C**

From the unpublished diary of Riccardo Martini, written at the end of July 1943. Martini was an Italian prisoner of war in a British camp in South Africa, 1941–1945.

My mind is still in turmoil after the events of these last few days. From my earliest years I was a member of the Fascist Youth, and I worked with young people from 1933, first as their instructor and then as their commander. I feel this collapse now more strongly than anyone else. Who can possibly believe that the sun has set? Who can ever convince me that everything has passed? For me it is like saying that I have never been a prisoner. Benito Mussolini, the Duce of Fascism, cannot have disappeared from Italy. He can never have left the people when it was more vital than ever for him to stay close to them. Here in the camp, no one believes he has gone, apart from a few medical officers. No, I cannot believe this. The Duce can never betray us. The Duce loved his people too much. I believe in the Duce in the same way as I believe in God.

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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 the fall of Mussolini in 1943.

**[30 marks]****Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'Italy entered the First World War in 1915 because of Italian public opinion.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 3** To what extent was Mussolini's appointment as Prime Minister in 1922 due to the weakness of King Victor Emmanuel III?

**[25 marks]**

**0 4** 'Mussolini's regime gained huge benefits from its relationship with the Catholic Church.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1929 to 1939.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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