Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

Paper reference **9HI0/1E**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Archie Brown, *The Rise and Fall of Communism*, published 2010.

In the Soviet Union, reform produced crisis more than crisis forced reform. In 1985 neither the Soviet system nor the Soviet state were under threat. By 1989 both of them were. Gorbachev and his advisers wanted to dismantle the communist system but were strongly opposed to the breakup of the Soviet state. However, they were not prepared to sacrifice the liberalised and democratising political system in favour of the violent suppression of national separatism.

Perestroika achieved a great deal. Fear of the state authorities was removed, liberty was introduced, competitive elections took place, and democratic accountability emerged in the USSR. It was no coincidence that these things happened shortly before the Soviet state itself ceased to exist. The task of holding together a democratised multinational state, in which each nation could point to a long list of grievances, was far harder than preserving the Soviet Union as a highly authoritarian state. Until the mid-1980s, it had been taken for granted that every demonstration of nationalism would be stamped out ruthlessly. It was when that ceased to be the case that expectations were raised and the Soviet state was called into question.

Extract 2: From Lee Edwards, *The Collapse of Communism*, published 2013.

Resolving Soviet economic stagnation could only have been accomplished by tampering with the system, which carried obvious risks. It was common knowledge in the 1980s that the Soviet economy was in deep trouble. The US Central Intelligence Agency forecast virtually zero growth for the USSR. Even within the Soviet Union voices were heard calling for major changes in the way the economy was run. A heavy and unanticipated blow was the sudden drop in the price of oil, the country's leading export and main currency earner. The decline in earnings from oil forced Moscow to resort to heavy borrowing from abroad.

In addition, the Soviet government preferred to ignore the nationalist tensions within the USSR. Consequently, the Soviet leadership did nothing and things soon got out of hand. The moment the politicians of the non-Russian republics sensed that Soviet authority was wobbling, they began to clamour for national rights and independence. Gorbachev made a desperate attempt to preserve the Soviet Union by drafting a new constitutional charter granting concessions to the republics, but he was overtaken by events.

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Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: The Rise and Fall of Communism by Archie Brown © Vintage Books, 2010

Extract 2 from: The Collapse of Communism by Lee Edwards © Hoover Institution Press, 1999