Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 23 May 2024

Morning (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 J. N. Westwood, *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian History 1812–1992*, published 1993.

By summer 1990, Yeltsin, now openly opposed by Gorbachev, was elected president of the Russian Republic. Strengthened by his new status and Lithuania's recent declaration of independence from the USSR, Yeltsin got his parliament to declare Russia a self-governing republic. Other republics also made similar declarations of independence and it was clear that the central USSR government was losing authority. These republics had some success when insisting that their laws took precedence over Soviet laws.

Yeltsin also led the popular resistance to the August 1991 attempted hard-line communist 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 about to collapse.

Extract 2: From Robert Service, *A History of Modern Russia: From Nicholas II to Putin*, published 2003.

The term 'reform' implies a series of modifications which leave the basic political, economic and social order intact. However, some 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 centralised administration and the state economic monopoly. Perestroika had become a project for total transformation. It was hardly surprising that many senior Soviet figures, including several he had promoted, were shocked by what was happening. Gorbachev, by his actions, if not by his deliberate purpose, was encouraging the disintegration of the existing Soviet system.

Gorbachev's communist background prevented him from seeing clearly where his path of transformation was leading the USSR. 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 seceding from the USSR. While wishing to replace traditional communist officials with energetic newcomers, he often chose newcomers who had no serious commitment to reform. Although he did radicalise his proposals during these years, Gorbachev always lagged behind the deepening crisis affecting the economy, the republics and the personnel of the Soviet system.

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Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian History 1812-1992*, By J. N. Westwood,
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Extract 2 from: *A History of Modern Russia: From Nicholas II to Putin*, By Robert Service,
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