Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Friday 23 May 2025

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 John Darwin, *After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires 1400–2000*, published 2008.

The principal aim of Gorbachev's *perestroika* was to make the Soviet economy and the economies of the Eastern Bloc more responsive to consumer demand and technological innovation. But this meant loosening Moscow's control over the East European satellite governments to permit moderate change.

Gorbachev, however, found that the transition from Soviet control to an 'informal empire' over Eastern Europe was not an easy option. To give up control, based on the threat of coercion, was to take a big risk. Without other means to keep the satellite states loyal, it might even prove fatal. What Moscow could offer by way of economic rewards was poor indeed compared with the West.

With dizzying speed East European reform turned into East European revolt. In November 1989 the Berlin Wall came down, pro-Soviet governments collapsed, and the East European 'outer empire' vanished. This disaster devastated the authority and the legitimacy of the Soviet regime. The command economy broke down at home. In the following year (1990), the revolt spread quickly across the 'inner empire' of the Soviet Union. The Soviet republics – including Russia itself under Boris Yeltsin – now demanded their freedom.

Extract 2: From Anders Åslund, *Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed*, published 2007.

The sudden burst of activity in the Soviet Union during 1985–87 ended two decades of stagnation. From the outset, Gorbachev's top priority was to revitalise the economy. His government team tried all kinds of measures, but economic growth did not improve. Shortages became worse because tax revenues declined with the anti-alcohol campaign, and a larger share of national wealth was diverted to inefficient investment. *Perestroika* fell very short of its main goal, which was to boost economic growth. According to official Soviet statistics, economic growth never exceeded 2–3 per cent a year, which probably meant economic stagnation in reality.

Glasnost started later than the other policies and developed much more gradually. It came into its own in 1987 and freedom of speech was attained in 1989. Gorbachev introduced *glasnost* in order to undermine hard–line Communist opposition to his reforms. But *glasnost* could not be controlled. It threatened not only the hardliners but the very foundations of the Soviet state, especially the state's ruthless policies against various nationalities. Rather than strengthen the Soviet state, *glasnost* eventually suggested that the Soviet Government was no longer sustainable.

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: *After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires 1400–2000*, John Darwin, 1st Edition, © Penguin, 2008

Extract 2 from: *Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed*, Anders Åslund, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington DC, 2007