# 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 Alec Nove, *An Economic History of the USSR, 1917–1991*, published 1992.

Reform of the Soviet economy in the mid-to-late 1980s faced formidable obstacles. First, ideologically, for many Soviet communist officials and citizens, free market thinking and socialism seemed completely incompatible. Ordinary citizens also saw private enterprise and trading for profit as a 'black market' activity. The masses were accustomed to, and valued, low-priced necessities and job security, but improved economic efficiency required a break with such practices.

A second obstacle was the determination of many officials in the party-state machine to retain their function of allocating resources, which was a vital source of their power and privilege. Consequently, bureaucrats could and did obstruct change.

A third obstacle was that millions of Soviet citizens had become accustomed to the old system and knew how to operate within it. Management was used to having their customers designated by central planning and had never had to advertise or promote their products.

All this helps to explain the failure of economic *perestroika*. However, the government also made serious economic policy errors, which made a difficult task altogether impossible. Such errors included the 12th Five Year Plan, the failure to tackle the budget deficit that stood at nearly 100 billion roubles in 1989, and the reluctance to raise prices. The stage was set for disintegration.

**Extract 2:** From P. M. H. Bell, *The World Since 1945: An International History*, published 2001.

Gorbachev gambled everything on the reform of the Soviet system. He hoped that he could somehow introduce a socialist-style market economy without letting the market dominate, permit greater freedom to the nationalities without conceding independence, and delegate power in a centralised system without leading to disintegration. In 1990, it grew increasingly unlikely that he could succeed, as a threefold crisis developed within the Soviet Union – ideological, economic and nationalist.

The decision to repeal Article 6 of the constitution and create the new post of President of the Soviet Union removed the directing role and political monopoly of the Soviet Communist Party. This change produced a profound ideological crisis regarding the purpose of communism but offered nothing to replace it. At the same time, the Soviet economy fell into actual decline, as gross national product contracted by between 2.4 per cent and 5 per cent. Finally, the nationalities' pursuit of independence or separation gathered pace in 1990. The areas most affected included the Baltic states, the Russian republic and the Ukraine. Gorbachev tried to hold the USSR together but, in practice, disintegration was setting in.

**Acknowledgements**

Extract 1 from: An economic history of the USSR, 1917–1991 By Alec Nove © Penguin Books, 1992

Extract 2 from: The World Since 1945: An International History (Hodder Arnold Publication) By P. M. H. Bell © Bloomsbury Academic, 2001