# Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

## Tuesday 19 May 2020

Afternoon (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 Extracts booklet with the question paper.**

*Turn over* ▶

P62388RA

©2020 Pearson Education Ltd.

1/1/1/1/1

P 6 2 3 8 8 R A

Pearson

**Extracts for use with Section C.**

**Extract 1:** From George W. Breslauer, *Gorbachev and Yeltsin as Leaders*, published 2002.

No matter what Gorbachev proposed in domestic policy during his last years as leader, Yeltsin criticised him for his conservatism and half-measures. Yeltsin supported decentralising forces in the union republics when Gorbachev was trying to contain those forces through a combination of threats and rewards. Yeltsin argued that the Soviet authorities were the main obstacle to Russia achieving a decisive transition to a new political order. He initiated a 'war of laws', opposing or blocking the enforcement of Soviet laws on the territory of the Russian republic. He sponsored a declaration of Russian 'sovereignty' and supported other republics that were doing the same. He dictated terms for a proposed Union Treaty, which was being negotiated throughout 1990–91, that would have turned the USSR into a confederation of largely independent states.

Yeltsin, over time, became increasingly determined to destroy both Gorbachev's authority and the Kremlin's powers. Yeltsin may not have decided until November-December 1991 to work behind the scenes to dissolve the Soviet Union. But it was increasingly clear, by the autumn of 1991, that Gorbachev was finished as a serious political force and that the future of Russia would be shaped by the decisions of President Yeltsin.

**Extract 2:** From Christopher Marsh, *Unparalleled Reforms: China's Rise, Russia's Fall and the Interdependence of Transition,* published 2005.

The collapse of the Soviet Union, although not inevitable prior to the launching of *perestroika,* became increasingly likely as events unfolded and decisions were made about how to proceed. The first phase of collapse began between March and December 1989, from the initial elections to the Congress of People's Deputies to the collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe. By this time *perestroika* had run into trouble. Gorbachev attempted to reinvigorate his reform agenda by pushing ahead with democratisation. But, in so doing, Gorbachev gave the vote to a population largely in need of food.

During the second phase, from January 1990 to August 1991, Soviet collapse became an increasingly possible outcome of reform. Yeltsin's meteoric rise to power in Russia, and his call to the republics to grab as much sovereignty as they could was a lethal blow to the Soviet Union. The failure of the August 1991 coup attempt led the country into the final phase of collapse, which saw the Soviet Union crumble throughout the autumn of 1991.

While long term conditions contributed to the failure of Communism, the Soviet collapse was also due to the policy choices made by Gorbachev, particularly in regard to the pace and scope of reform.

Extract 1 from: George W Breslauer, 'Gorbachev and Yeltsin as Leaders', Cambridge University Press 2002
Extract 2 from: Christopher Marsh, 'Unparalleled Reforms – China's Rise, Russia's Fall, and the Interdependence of Transition', Lexington Books 2005

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. Pearson Education Ltd. will, if notified, be happy to rectify any errors or omissions and include any such rectifications in future editions.