

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2017

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in History (WHI02) Paper 1C

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Examiner Report: WHIO2 1C Russia, 1917-91: From Lenin to Yeltsin

Introduction

It was pleasing to see a range of well-informed and well-written responses from candidates on IAS Paper WHI02 1C which covers the option Russia, 1917-91: From Lenin to Yeltsin. The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory two-part question for the option studied, each part based on one source. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts - cause, consequence, change/ continuity, similarity/difference and significance.

It is pleasing to note that in Section A some candidates understood what was meant by 'value' and 'weight' in the context of source analysis and evaluation. However, this year there was less evidence of the detailed knowledge base required in this section to be able to add contextual material to support/challenge points derived from the sources. Some candidates are still writing about limitations in question a and this did impact on the length of part b for some candidates.

In Section B, some candidates produced wholly descriptive essays which were devoid of analysis, but more responses were soundly structured. The most common weakness in Section B essays was the lack of a sharp focus on the precise terms of the question and/or the second order concept that was targeted. In some cases candidates struggled to develop sufficient relevant material to address the question and some included material that did not relate to the question.

It remains important to realise that Section A topics are drawn from highlighted topics on the specification whereas Section B questions may be set from any part of any Key Topic, and, as a result, full coverage of the specification is enormously important. There was little evidence on this paper of candidates having insufficient time to answer questions from Sections A and B.

The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

Question 1a)

The major issue for candidates addressing this question was that, overall, their knowledge of the Constituent Assembly, and of the circumstances of its dismissal, was often lacking. As a result, many candidates took the source at face value. They did not generally appreciate that Lenin's actions were driven by his determination to hold on to power at any cost and were also unable to add any knowledge of real value to the enquiry. In addition, many comment on the provenance of the source were highly generic, along the lines of 'it's valuable because Lenin was there and so must know the reasons....' Overall, there were many Level 1 and low Level 2 answers. The best responses drew valid inferences that were developed by good contextual knowledge and developed valid comments on the provenance of the source

DOC ID: 0429001100179 This is a secure level 3 response achieving level 3 in all the bullet points in the mark scheme. It has good contextual knowledge threaded through the response to explain and support inferences. It does make the mistake of looking at limitations and this part of the answer is not rewarded.

In January 1918 Lenin dissolved the Constituent Assembly after only one meeting. The source provided is an extract from the Draft Deree on the Dissolution of the Constituent Asembly witten by Lenin himself to we are looking to assess the value of this source its origin and purpose should not be neglected as well as the message that it tries to pass that benin homself wrote this Decree raises the value of this source in terms of the reasons that the Bolshenis gave to the people as to why they do nused a democratic Cirction of the state Lenin's Decree this is the official views that the Bolsherik Party held as to why the Constituent Assembly was disolved. The purpose of this highlight how the Constituent Assembly was a representation of the 'old world' and how the tried to make the highly exploitative of the system move of dissolving it appear to be at the worker's best interests In that sense this Decree however valuable, as it represents the official views of the & Bolsherit Party is more propaganda than to valuable insight to the real reasons behind

Lenin> actions. to the source itself provides us with well-thought out seasoning too why lenin claimed he did what he did. The source and thus Lenen himself, implies that the 'old bulgeois perhamentary to system was absolutely incompatible with the aim of achieving socialism'. This gives exidence of the supposed popular support schind the Revolution and bases its reasoning on the argument that the October Revolibon was to the best interest of the working and explited classes' and as sale that anything that existed before it was a symbol of oppression of said classes. Through this he tried to vilily the long to bear Assembly as being nothing more than an instrument of the Suggesinie the butter dains indicates that to 'suscender the supreme authority of the Soviets to the Construent assembly would be a step backwards This builds on the previous claim about the evils of the Suggesize that are supposedly entrenched in the Asembly itself and thus toics to convince the readers of this source / Decree that the dissolution of the Assembly was a this ign of strength by the Bolsher, & Party or that they were both capable and willing to hamper any obstacle that got into the way of the Revolution and what it stood for This is hother supported by the fact that he postsays the Righ-Society + - Revolutionasies as something that bedevilled the country on they refused to secognise le Otober revolution le builds thus agament en to

fact that a group of the SP's actually goined them as they at were able to recognize the importance of the Revolution and of and the 'exile' of the and backwardness of the Assembly. However this group out leave the Bolshevits after the Brest-Litorsk treaty These arguments however representative of lenis views and the Bulshent Party's are not completely indicative of the tree seasons as to why the disclussion occured The Hensheviks and the SR's after the Revolution tried to grate an alliance with the Bolsherits on as they were left wing puties. They were met with a firm response by Trothey: You have played out your role Dow go where you belong- the do. 13 m of history. The Bolsherits die not want to ease their hold on power not even by a little That is why when the results from the elections came they bound llemselves weatened: They had won 9 pullion yoks but the SD's with their 21 million votes hat secured the major by if the Assently with 410 seals. The Bolsherits would not have it. The lemn dessolved the Constituent Asems & after only one meeting and replaced it by the All-Russian Congress of the Societs a party mechanism that he hat significant influence over The was source can be considered a valuable enquiry into the reason for Lenn's dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in terms of it being an official comment of the Communit Party However it is largely propaganta and other sources need to be reviewed for the other side of the stoy: The Bolsheut's hold onto power

Question 1b)

Whilst there were some well-developed responses to this question with good interrogation of the source to establish its weight, it was clear that many candidates had been coached to assert 'this source has weight' at every opportunity but relatively few really engaged with that concept in any meaningful way. Many candidates knew something of the reforms initiated by Gorbachev but equally, many struggled to make valid inferences from the content of the source and develop them, often caused by not reading the source through properly. As with (a), much of the commentary on provenance was highly generic ('as an American, he will not have experienced this directly...') preventing any real discussion of weight. Again, this approach is not successful and resulted in such candidates remaining in Level 2.

DOC ID: 0429001100179 This is a secure level 4 response. The response considers both the strengths and limitations of the source. The interrogation of the source is developed using sound contextual knowledge and has a sense of the values of the society from which it originates.

The source provided to is an extract from an article by a poxinalist. Michael Parts published in an American newspaper in 1989. The fact that this source was the printed in the Las Appeles bines Joth has a double-edged impact on its value from one viewpoint the 'Los Angeles Times' were Wenzpages known for its wedstily and objective and thorough reporting, exergerially back in the 90's. So this cauces 16 xalue as a source However from weather standpoint an American verspapes will possibly seem represent western attitudes towards Gosbacher's governance It is clear both from the sauce and from our own knowledge that the U) A were In Lavas of barbacker, reduction of traditional controls as it the USSR from a command economy to a more demaration and free-market one, This, one more similar to that This alongside with the fact that this acticle was published in 1989, before the collapse of the USSA a proper in tigation impact occurred after Garbacher's reduction of toolstimal controls lowers the value of may not be as sieved as it comes with Vludinic Stacker and the may be representative of Soviet people's spinions. The purpose of this source is probably to project a positive image of Gaibacher's measures to the American poble

Theo source provides evidence that there are people within the USSR that view the policy of perestroika and its impact on a favoriable vote ('People want to know what's going on in this country', 'Perestorka has created an insububle appetite by the) It is true that with the policies of perestroite and glasnot much of the Societ population started shapping political views and became incleasingly with political life Marrover Stackovis acticles suggest that the an impact of the the reduction in traditional controls is that now "Miconcrete facts and materials are published in contrast ending propaganda that exister previously. He Also, themples the sauce implies that an impact of these policies of openness' is that now people, such as Vladular Stacker, can express their views lively Under Stalin he would have at best been consored at worse short or deported to the Galag However the source also kinds that the impact of might of Ceosbuches's breaking down of tradeboral controls may not be complete as Starkor we was "witicised by Gorbacher" and his there will be decided formally by the board of the Knowledge Society'. This implies that although some rules and orgalations became more las, criticising a government newspaper was not yet acceptable firstly binally the source unknowingly gives some insight as to what the Law night hold for the UNR with the phrase insutable appetite! Parks could not have known at the time but indeed, the floodgates had oppened and they weren't about to close

people dit intert want to know what's going on this country' Investigations were launched and the yelly texts espects of communism steadily Stackovi the LII blown 6 policies only investigate the 6 the impact of uniarelling that process USDR, alongside other factor tha value of the source can It gives is insight to the direct ment of reduction in traditional controls through siting direct behind the Iron actain Hell

Question 2

This was by far the most popular essay question. The best answers were underpinned by a depth of knowledge on a range of relevant factors which were then used to reach a judgement on the significance of the use of terror in Stalin's control of the population. These factors included the purges and show trials, use of the NKVD, economic terror in collectivisation and the five-year plans as well as alternatives such as propaganda and the cult of personality and the education system. The standard of answers was variable. One of the reasons for the lower-achieving was because of the lack of precision in determining the focus of the question, 'control of the population'. Some veered off into consideration of policies and results of industrialisation and collectivisation (both of which were valid when used correctly) while other defined it solely to do with matters concerning Stalin's attainment of the Party leadership. As for 'terror' candidates often knew a sufficient amount but would have benefitted from better organisation of their material. For example, instead of a general narrative taking in the NKVD and its leadership, the show trials and gulags, they may have considered how Stalin's need for control of the party widened out into a general terror and the purposes to which this was all put. They may also have gone beyond the 1930s which most didn't. Lastly, a significant number wrote one-sided responses which didn't go beyond terror at all.

DOC ID: 0429001100134: This is a level 4 response. It explores the key issues and is developed with a range of secure knowledge. It is a little weaker in developing the criteria for judgement and the conclusion is not securely developed but overall this merits a mid-level 4 mark.

Plan:
-Intro STALIN (1018-22)
- Para 1 TERROR FELIX OGPU (All-union State Party Administration)
· Red army Purses Cleansing Show trially 10% of Population The Great Terror of the 30s Propaganda Intimidation techniques Did it to secure his own Position
-Para 2 CONSTITUTION
· Introduced in 1936 *Throatically democratic
- Para 3 NOT MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR (System)
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- Conclusion Essay: From 1928, When it became increasingly clear that Stalin was supreme leader of the Soviet Communist Party

USSR to Communism. Therefore, it can also be argued ideology, imposed by heavy that it was the communist propaganda, that acted as a force for control of the because of their own willingness to co-operate in order to achieve communism. The Communist party began it's rule instantly by the use of terror, as it siezed power through force in the 1917 Kevolution. This makes it logical that Stalin would continue using such tactics in 1928 and Onwards in Order to Maintain Dower. OGPU (All-Union State state Party Administration) and the allowed Stalin a discreet method of ruling out any opposition. At first, through the Nomenklatura system, this was done without much terror as un-loyal members were simply declined prop promotion or were rid from Party. However, as suspicions, along with Stalin's paranoia, rose so did the use of terror, as the OGPU would exile and our torture, or every execute members from the government and general public. By 1953 it was estimated was responsible that Stalin's government 10 million deaths. Terror was further emphasized by of it's public elements. During the 1930s Show Trials in order used demonstrate the strict control under the government, but also act as a terrifying warning to

who were considering of opposing the regime. Radio and Television was used to publicise the trials, and through totaline hidden (not public) torture, the government was often successful in getting confessions from the accussed. This demonstrates how Stalin's government appeared to rely on creating fear in within the government and public in order to avoid any potential opposition. However, in another view it appeared that thereword to maintain Stalin's terror was used in order position within the government, not in order maintain general control of the People. Evidence to prove this would be Lenin's much smaller Fillings of only 200,000, (compared to Stalin) despite Fillings of only 200,000, (compared to Stalin) despite the party being in a less secure position at the time. This suggests how Stalin's use of terror was simply part of his character, and to just happened to consumiently appear to be used as political technique of controlling the people. The new Constitution of 1936 may also act as evidence to prove that terror was not the only significant factor in controlling USSR's population. It appeared to be a shift to democracy, stressed by Stalin, as it governotesito for once gave votes

to all members of the population. When can be inaplied there fore considering this factor it were the people willing to follow the Communist regime, be controlled as thereby allowing themselves little opposition was shown through votes. practicality of When looking into the can explained particular communities placed on the constitution wording of difficult express and much views the established economic system by the Seen government Can also factor in controlling and 1929, under the Gosphan, both agriculture - was placed Macow access to Union's economic operations was Although inefficient the economy tor productivity in agriculture fell and quality Stalin government was in factor 'on, since praise and hon-timencial aga

incentives were used for the majority in encouraging productivity in the workfore - it suggests that get was the public's willingness for communism that lead to easy control towever, still proved significant here to some extent. In the industry ' there were great capital punulments Shake individual Slackers or a united failure in meeting the over-optemistic output by the government thidence to support the would be the increase in corruption, falsifying documents of production, and the general fall in quality in a desparate attempt to meet objectives. Example being tractor industry which tad a set target of 500 tractors to be produce in June alone, and in result produced only 8 that worked for less than 3 days. In agriculture the destruction terror was evidently also used in of the Kulak and NEPmen, as the Red Army "dekulanization squads" Were set sent agricultural areas to arrest and kill off any opposition. Moreover, the law lack of mention of between 1988 1932 and 1933, Killing million in regions such as Ukraine, tes how the government amply often demonstrates how hide it's exessive Char terror - especially when the consequences were so high.

was only a conclusion, terror ability controlling between control wa tuelled Centralli controlled often was Used terror supreme control-which ensuring still be argued to have still even 3 paragraph murder, after his public Victors' Congress of and popularity, acts as evidence prove this. befricially aficially proven political Stalin's acted catalys (A) Great Period 1 escale it appeared Satisfaction, not done' securing control. Means

Question 3

This was a more popular question and there were some secure answers that were supported with good knowledge. Some candidates did struggle to develop alternative factors for maintaining apartheid and this made it difficult for them to achieve the higher levels. To access level 4 candidates do need to focus on the second order concept- significance — and develop criteria to make and support judgements. Some candidates tend to lose sight of this and provide a largely descriptive response.

Question 4

The best responses developed a range of factors demonstrating good knowledge of internal and external pressures that led to the collapse of apartheid. These responses also weighed up the relative importance of the different reasons to reach a supported judgement. Some candidates appeared confused by the term 'criteria' in the mark scheme and used this term for the reasons they identified for the collapse of apartheid. This resulted in some rather confused arguments.

DOC ID: 0429001241278: This is an excellent response which achieves a high level 4 mark. It develops a range of reasons, supported by secure knowledge. It has a secure judgement considering the importance of the internal and external pressures.

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Based on the performance of this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

Section A

- Make sure you are aware of the topics highlighted for the source question and have prepared for them
- A careful reading of the sources is needed so that the issues raised are clearly identified
- You must ensure that you draw out inferences, but these should always be directly linked to the source and not driven by contextual knowledge
- You should consider the nature, origin and purpose of the source
- Do not merely restate what the provenance says think about how it can be used to address the question. In a, this requires a consideration of how it adds value and in b, this requires considering value and limitations
- Contextual knowledge should be used to support the answer, not to drive it, and should be made relevant to the enquiry
- Question 1a does not require a consideration of the limitations of sources
- It is unlikely that weight can be assessed by listing all the things that a source does not deal with.

Section B

- Spending a few minutes planning helps to ensure the second order concept is correctly identified
- Candidates must provide more precise contextual knowledge as evidence. Weaker responses lacked depth and sometimes range

- Candidates should avoid a narrative/descriptive approach; this undermines the analysis that is required for the higher levels
- Candidates need to be aware of key dates as identified in the specification so that they can address the questions with chronological precision
- Essay questions are set over a period of at least ten years; candidates need to address the whole time period set in the question
- Candidates should try to explore the links between issues in order to make the structure of the response flow more logically and to enable the integration of analysis.

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