



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL THE CHALLENGE 2022

HISTORY

Tuesday 26 April 2022

You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.

You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

- **Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions in the answer sheet provided – do not answer in the exam paper.**

Section A: THE CULT OF STALIN

Historical Background

Joseph Stalin was the communist leader of the Soviet Union from the late 1920s until his death in 1953. He was a dictator and, like all dictators, ensured that propaganda was used extensively to put over the ideas of his government. Soviet citizens were bombarded with pro-communist and pro-Stalin propaganda in all aspects of daily life and propaganda ran through all aspects of culture and education. Anti-communist views or views hostile to Stalin were censored and suppressed. The campaign to glorify Stalin grew tremendously in the 1930s and became known as the 'cult of Stalin'.

Don't worry at all if you have never studied Stalin or any Russian history. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.

Look at all the sources closely and then answer ALL the questions which follow.

Source A.

Adapted from Andy Holland's book, *Russia and its Rulers, 1855-1964*.

Under Stalin a cult of personality was deliberately cultivated. The intention was to present the leaders as a hero to be worshipped with unquestioning loyalty. With this in place it was then much easier to rule in a dictatorial fashion.

Source B

An extract from an interview with a Russian who lived through the period of Stalin's dictatorship.

Looking back on my life, I now see that period as one of sincere enthusiasm, of genuine happiness and yet, at the same time, of self-hypnosis ... from the personality cult of Stalin. It was impossible to withstand the pressure that was put on people's reason, heart and soul. Day and night, radio told us that Stalin was the greatest man on earth – the greatest statesman, the father of the nation, the genius of all time.

Source C

An official poster, issued in 1936. Stalin is in the white uniform. The text says 'Thank you, dear Stalin, for a happy childhood'.



463. Говорков В.
Спасибо любимому Сталину — за счастливое детство! 1936

Source D

An extract from a speech made by the writer Avdienko in praise of Stalin at the 1935 Communist Party Congress

The men of all ages will call upon your name, which is strong, beautiful, wise and marvellous. Your name is carved on every factory, every machine, every place on the earth, and in the hearts of all men. I write books. I am an author. All thanks to thee, O great educator, Stalin.

Answer ALL of the following questions. Remember to use details from the sources in your answers.

1. **Read Source B.** How does this source explain the success of pro-Stalin propaganda? [5 marks]
2. **Look at Source C.** What image does the picture give of Stalin? How does the artist create this image? [5 marks]
3. **Read Source D.** What can you learn from this source about what some people thought of Stalin? [5 marks]
4. **Examine ALL the Sources.** What do these Sources tell you about Stalin's way of ruling? [10 marks]

Total: 25 marks

Section B: Essay

Answer **ONE** of the following questions

In answering your chosen question, you should try to use examples and comparisons from your study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully.

1. 'Our rulers should be sent on a crash-course in History'. Imagine you have been asked to design such a course: what would you include and why?
2. 'Famous historical figures have in fact been more concerned with their own glory than with political or social reform'. How far does your study of History support this view?
3. In what circumstances might it be appropriate to appease an aggressor or a dictator?
4. 'Historians have written overwhelmingly about men for more than 2,000 years'. Why have historians tended to pay such little attention to women?

Total: 25 marks

END OF PAPER