

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

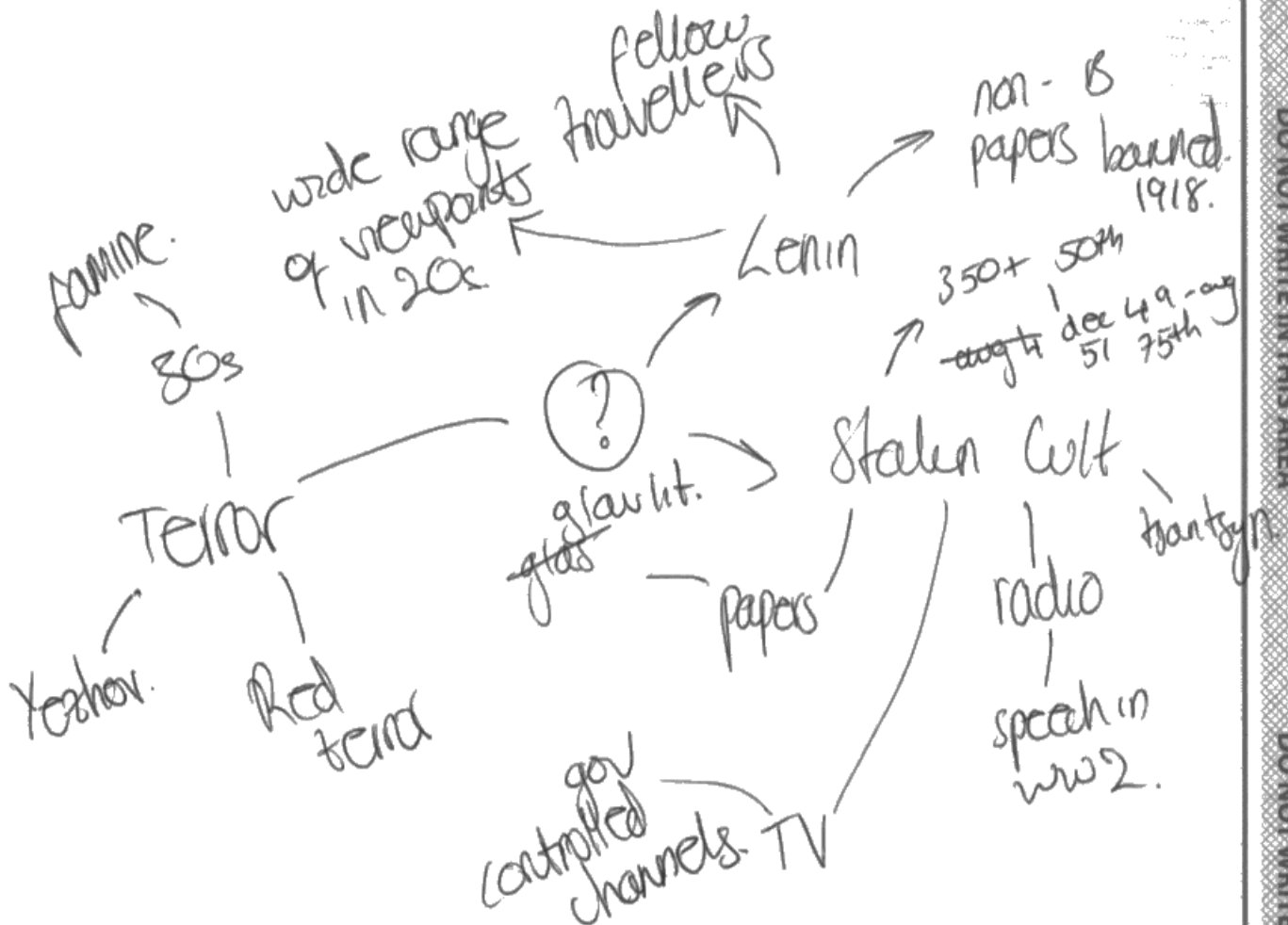
- 1 Was state propaganda the main reason for the Soviet regime's control over its people in the years 1917–53?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

- 2 Was Khrushchev's limited reform of the Soviet government the main reason for the regime's growing political stagnation in the years 1964–82?

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒ Question 2 ☒

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it could be argued that propaganda was the main reason for the control of the people 1917 - 53 because it was a very effective form of promoting the Soviet regime, it could, if need be, brainwash an entire population into believing what the government wanted. However, there were other ways of enforcing control on the population, such as using terror. It may be that it was a mix of tactics which enabled the Soviet ~~union~~ to ~~be~~ regime to stay in place.

~~the first~~ One of the first things Lenin did ~~was~~ in 1917 ~~when~~ was to ensure that his ~~viewpoint~~ authority was not challenged. Only a year after the Bolsheviks had taken control, Lenin ensured that all non-Bolshevik newspapers were banned, which would have ensured that the public only read articles ~~that~~ that praised Lenin and Bolshevism. This shows it was important and promoted



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to Lenin that he controlled ~~what~~ ^{the} public's thoughts, from which it can be inferred that he believed ~~that~~ propaganda to be an important form of control. Because he implemented this long before he used any form of terror to control the people, ~~the~~ ^{it} could mean that Lenin considered ~~&~~ propaganda to be the most important form of control.

The importance of propaganda was certainly carried through to Stalin's time, where he used a variety of techniques to control what the Russian people thought. His first step was to create his own personality cult, which portrayed him as god-like, so that people would obey his wishes. Tsantsyn was renamed Stalingrad in 1925, history was re-written in his favour, and he received ~~many~~ greetings for nearly 2 years for his 75th birthday from 1 December 1949 to August 1951. His childhood home was also turned into a shrine and for his 50th birthday, over 350 organisations greeted him, some of which



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were non-existent. The extent to which this cult developed proved it was an important form of control over the people; if it wasn't an effective method of control, Stalin wouldn't have developed his personality cult to such an extreme extent.

Stalin also ^{heavily} controlled the media and the arts. All journalists were expected to be Party members and approval from Glavlit was needed to publish any article in a newspaper. During the time of Socialist Realism 1932 - 1953, only works of art which showed Stalin as the reason for all socialist achievements were permitted. All was controlled during this time period; the subjects people read about, what they saw on TV and what they heard on the radio. The high level of control over the arts, implemented by Stalin, clearly shows that propaganda was an effective ~~new~~ form of control because people believed what they were being told.



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however, the big issue with propaganda was that people could have realised that they weren't being told the whole truth, ~~which may have~~ and may have stepped out of line had they not been afraid to do so. Terror was also a very important, effective way of controlling an entire population. Between 1917 and 1923, 200 000 people were killed ~~in order to~~ when they disobeyed the government; the Red Terror, ~~was~~ a wave of arrests of left wing Party members, was done to show people what would happen to them should they step out of line.

Stalin's ^{use of} terror was even more extensive than Lenin's. He appointed Yezhov as head of secret police in 1936 ~~when~~ whilst he was purging the Party of his enemies, in order to ensure maximum terror was achieved. In September 1937 the Troika (a jury of 3 people) tried and convicted 281 prisoners a day; shortly before that in July 1937, death quotas were issued, with rewards given



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to officers who met them. Stalin also purged the Party, the secret police and the Army in order to enforce loyalty towards him.

In short, whilst propaganda certainly helped to control people's thought process ~~terror~~ the level of control the government achieved over its people could not have been achieved without the use of terror. People will have realised that the whole truth was being kept from them, but the reason they still conformed was because they were scared of the consequences if they didn't. It cannot be said that propaganda was the main form of control, despite it being useful; it was a mixture of ^{this} ~~and~~ terror which aided the government to ~~that~~ control its people so much.



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