

Paper Reference(s) 9HI0/1E
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

**Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin
to Yeltsin**

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

Extracts Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET
WITH THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Extracts for use with Section C.

EXTRACT 1: From Archie Brown, *The Rise and Fall of Communism*, published 2010.

In the Soviet Union, reform produced crisis more than crisis forced reform. In 1985 neither the Soviet system nor the Soviet state were under threat. By 1989 both of them were. Gorbachev and his advisers wanted to dismantle the communist system but were strongly opposed to the breakup of the Soviet state. However, they were not prepared to sacrifice the liberalised and democratising political system in favour of the violent suppression of national separatism.

Perestroika achieved a great deal. Fear of the state authorities was removed, liberty was introduced, competitive elections took place, and democratic accountability emerged in the USSR. It was no coincidence that

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these things happened shortly before the 20
Soviet state itself ceased to exist. The
task of holding together a democratised
multinational state, in which each nation
could point to a long list of grievances,
was far harder than preserving the Soviet 25
Union as a highly authoritarian state.
Until the mid-1980s, it had been taken
for granted that every demonstration
of nationalism would be stamped out
ruthlessly. It was when that ceased 30
to be the case that expectations were
raised and the Soviet state was called
into question.

**EXTRACT 2: From Lee Edwards,
The Collapse of Communism,
published 2013.**

**Resolving Soviet economic stagnation
could only have been accomplished
by tampering with the system, which
carried obvious risks. It was common
knowledge in the 1980s that the Soviet 5
economy was in deep trouble. The US
Central Intelligence Agency forecast
virtually zero growth for the USSR. Even
within the Soviet Union voices were
heard calling for major changes in the 10
way the economy was run. A heavy and
unanticipated blow was the sudden
drop in the price of oil, the country's
leading export and main currency earner.
The decline in earnings from oil forced 15
Moscow to resort to heavy borrowing
from abroad.**

**In addition, the Soviet government
preferred to ignore the nationalist
tensions within the USSR. Consequently, 20**

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the Soviet leadership did nothing and things soon got out of hand. The moment the politicians of the non-Russian republics sensed that Soviet authority was wobbling, they began to clamour for national rights and independence. Gorbachev made a desperate attempt to preserve the Soviet Union by drafting a new constitutional charter granting concessions to the republics, but he was overtaken by events.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Extract 2 from: The Collapse of Communism by Lee Edwards © Hoover Institution Press, 1999