

Paper Reference(s) 1HIB/30
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

PAPER 3: Modern depth study

Option 30: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

**Sources / Interpretations Booklet for use
within Section B.**

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

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Sources / interpretations for use with Section B.

SOURCE B: From 'On the Death of Lenin', a speech made by Stalin at the Congress of Soviets in January 1924. The Congress of Soviets was a meeting of local representatives that had an important role in government.

Comrades, there is nothing greater than being a member of the Communist Party whose founder and leader was Comrade Lenin. Before he died, Lenin ordered us to keep the Party united. Comrade Lenin, we promise you that we shall do this!

During the past few days, we have seen hundreds of thousands of working people coming to Moscow to show their respects to Comrade Lenin. You can be certain that hundreds of millions of workers from all parts of the earth will realise that Lenin was a leader for them all.

We promise you, Comrade Lenin, that we shall risk our lives to strengthen the union of the working people of the world.

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SOURCE C: From *Memoirs of a Revolutionary* by Victor Serge, published in 1945. Serge was a Russian revolutionary who was a friend of Trotsky. Stalin banned Serge from the Communist Party in 1928. Here Serge is describing Trotsky in the 1920s.

Trotsky had a lot of energy. He always wanted to tell people what they should think and do. He was strict and always insisted on punctuality from workers and soldiers.

My friends and I greatly admired Trotsky, but we had no real love for him. Others were critical of him and his ways of behaving.

Trotsky was a talented speaker, but he did not like listening to others. His ideas were not always the same as Lenin's. Trotsky's ideas about solving the problems of Russia made him seem like a dictator.

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INTERPRETATION 1: From Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964 by C Corin and T Fiehn, published in 2015.

There were important factors that worked against Trotsky in the struggle for power.

Trotsky was arrogant and he treated his colleagues with a lack of respect. Many old Bolsheviks saw Trotsky as an outsider. They also doubted his loyalty as he had only joined the Party in 1917.

Trotsky did not like making alliances to build up his power. He preferred to show his abilities in debates.

Trotsky also suffered from ill health. This made it hard for him to deal with the political attacks on him by his enemies.

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INTERPRETATION 2: From GCSE Modern World History by B Walsh, published in 2001.

Stalin was a clever politician who planned his attempt to gain power carefully. Whenever possible, he made great efforts to link himself with Lenin. He was also ruthless in picking off his rivals.

Stalin was extremely clever in using his power within the Communist Party, taking on many boring but important jobs, such as General Secretary.

Finally, Stalin appeared to be a straightforward 'man of the people'. He seemed to be the man who understood the feelings of people who were tired after years of war and revolution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source B taken from: <https://spartacus-educational.com/RUStrotsky.htm>

Source C taken from: <https://worldwar2database.com/gallery/wwii0226>

**Interpretation 1 taken from *Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964* by Chris Corin and Terry Fiehn
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Interpretation 2 taken from *GCSE Modern World History* by Ben Walsh © John Murray