



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2010

History

HIS2K

Unit 2K A New Roman Empire?
Mussolini's Italy, 1922–1945

Wednesday 20 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2K.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

HIS2K

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A In the 1930s, Mussolini's powerful propaganda machine was successful in creating, at least up to 1938, a sense of solidarity such as had rarely occurred in the history of united Italy. The decisive turning point was undoubtedly the successful colonial war in Abyssinia. Thanks to that war, the Fascist regime, and
5 Mussolini in particular, achieved such great prestige that it won over the southern peasantry, the unemployed and certain sections of the industrial workers. Nevertheless, despite the surface solidarity, events were already conspiring to change attitudes towards the regime and eventually to leave Mussolini isolated and vulnerable.

Adapted from D THOMPSON, *State Control In Fascist Italy*, 1991

Source B Police surveillance reports on the public mood in Turin, October 1938

Discontent is shown in a number of different ways but the most common is that of speaking badly about the regime and of the autarchic measures it is taking. You can hear these things being discussed among the workers as soon as they are together with old friends whom they can trust, or among the women in the city's
5 markets, or when they are waiting for the children to come out of school. This discontent is very serious and seems to be spreading as each day goes by. The concessions given out in recent weeks were insufficient. What is really wanted is some important public work creation schemes to occupy the workforce.

Source C The Great Depression that struck Italy in the 1930s removed any lingering hopes that the workers might receive some of the benefits they had been promised. Official unemployment soared to over a million by 1933 and industry began to face collapse. The state was forced to intervene far more vigorously than it had in
5 the 1920s. Businessmen began to feel uneasy, especially after 1935, when Mussolini started to rely more on trade with Germany and to develop a programme of autarky. Workers enjoyed some pay rises but were still worse off than they had been in the previous decade. One basic reason why so many new members joined the Fascist Party in the 1930s was that a party card was a passport
10 to employment and, literally, a meal ticket.

Adapted from J WHITTAM, *Fascist Italy*, 1995

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to attitudes towards Mussolini's Fascist regime in the 1930s. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How successful were Fascist economic policies in dealing with the Great Depression in the 1930s? (24 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) Explain why Mussolini made the Lateran Treaties with the Papacy in 1929. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Mussolini’s successful consolidation of power in the years 1922 to 1929 was mainly due to his willingness to compromise with the traditional ruling elites of Italy.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Explain why Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1935. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘The most important factor influencing Mussolini’s foreign policy between 1936 and 1940 was his fear of Hitler’s Germany.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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