

# DSST® RISE AND FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION

## EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers Russia under the old regime, the revolutionary period, new economic policy, pre-war Stalinism, World War II, post-war Stalinism, the Khrushchev years, the Brezhnev era, and reform and collapse.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

## EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

- I. Russia Under the Old Regime – 12%**
  - a. Governing Institutions
  - b. Economics
  - c. Culture and society
  - d. The empire
  - e. Revolutionary movements
- II. The Revolutionary Period 1914-1921 – 14%**
  - a. The first world war
  - b. February/march revolution
  - c. Interim
  - d. Bolshevik revolution
  - e. Civil war
- III. New Economic Policy (NEP) – 10%**
  - a. Economics
  - b. Struggle for power
  - c. Foreign relations
  - d. Cultural experimentation
- IV. Prewar Stalinism – 12%**
  - a. Collectivization
  - b. Industrialization
  - c. Reign of terror
  - d. Cultural regimentation
  - e. Nationalities
- V. The Second World War – 11%**
  - a. Prewar foreign relations
  - b. The war
- VI. Postwar Stalinism – 7%**
  - a. Domestic affairs
  - b. Foreign affairs

## VII. The Khrushchev Years – 7%

- a. Succession struggle
- b. De-Stalinization
- c. Foreign affairs

## VIII. The Brezhnev Era – 8%

- a. Growth and stagnation
- b. Political scene: stability, corruption, dissent

## IX. Reform and Collapse – 14%

- a. Perestroika and glasnost
- b. Reemergence of the nationalities issue
- c. Retreat from eastern Europe
- d. End of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

## REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** provided **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. Gilbert, Martin. *Soviet History Atlas*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., current edition.
2. Hosking, Geoffrey. *The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, current edition.
3. Kort, Michael. *The Soviet Colossus: History and Aftermath*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, current edition.
4. McCauley, Martin. *The Soviet Union 1917-1991*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.
5. Thompson, John M. *A Vision Unfulfilled: Russia and the Soviet Union in the Twentieth Century*.

Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Company, current edition.

6. Treadgold, Donald W. *Twentieth-Century Russia*. San Francisco, CA: Westview Press, current edition.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at [www.getcollegedcredit.com/testprep](http://www.getcollegedcredit.com/testprep).

Questions on the exam require test takers to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of the abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 95% of the examination)
- Understanding of concepts and principles (about 5% of the examination)

1. The name of the lower house of the Russian parliament from 1906-1917 was
  - a. Council of State
  - b. Council of the Federation
  - c. State Duma
  - d. Congress of People's Deputies
2. In his "April Theses" V.I. Lenin called for
  - a. support of the Russian war effort
  - b. the overthrow of the provisional government
  - c. cooperation with the Mensheviks
  - d. peace with Germany
3. The Kornilov Affair hastened the October/November Revolution by
  - a. strengthening the power of the army
  - b. discrediting the constituent assembly
  - c. increasing the popularity of Prime Minister Kerensky
  - d. enhancing the prestige of the Bolsheviks
4. The purpose of Gosplan was to
  - a. coordinate secret surveillance of dissidents
  - b. provide direction for economic development
  - c. coordinate policies of the Orgburo and the Politburo
  - d. train spies to infiltrate NATO
5. During the 1920's Soviet foreign policy enjoyed its greatest success in relations with
  - a. China
  - b. Germany
  - c. Great Britain
  - d. The United States
6. Stalin's Industrial Five Year Plan of 1928 was based on which of the following?
  - a. Discouraged foreign investment.
  - b. Continued the policy of Lenin's NEP.
  - c. Built factories that produced heavy equipment.
  - d. Made the Soviet Union competitive with the west.
7. The Katyn Forest Massacre created hostility toward the Soviet government among
  - a. Jews
  - b. Finns
  - c. Ukrainians
  - d. Poles
8. In which of the following countries did communism come to power after the Second World War without Soviet assistance?
  - a. Yugoslavia
  - b. Poland
  - c. Hungary
  - d. Czechoslovakia
9. In June 1957, Khrushchev deftly outflanked Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Shepilov in the Central Committee of the CPSU; stigmatizing them as the
  - a. Gang Of Four
  - b. Anti-Party Group
  - c. Anti-Leninist Faction
  - d. Neo-Stalinists
10. Which of the following was **NOT** a major economic trend of the Era of Stagnation?
  - a. Growth in the quantity of production
  - b. Success in "showcase industries" such as aerospace
  - c. Widespread shortages of consumer goods
  - d. Penetration of world markets by cheap Soviet exports
11. The nationality of the Soviet foreign minister during most of the Gorbachev era was
  - a. Russian
  - b. Ukrainian
  - c. Georgian
  - d. Armenian
12. The catalyst for the aborted coup of August 1991 was Gorbachev's attempt to
  - a. dissolve collective farms
  - b. remove from the constitution the article on the communist party's "leading role"
  - c. reconstruct the federal union
  - d. dissolve the congress of people's deputies

**CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

|                                  |                                                                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Area or Course Equivalent</b> | Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union                                     |
| <b>Level</b>                     | Upper-level baccalaureate                                             |
| <b>Amount of Credit</b>          | Three (3) semester hours                                              |
| <b>Minimum Score</b>             | 400                                                                   |
| <b>Source</b>                    | American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service |

**Answers to sample questions:** 1-C; 2-B; 3-D; 4-B; 5-B; 6-C; 7-D; 8-A, 9-B, 10-D, 11-C, 12-C.