

HRES 6159

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Russian and East European Studies

SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET RUSSIAN DEFENCE POLICY

TRINITY TERM 2007

Monday 11 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

1. EITHER

(a)

'For Soviet or Russian military professionals, there is only one valid methodological foundation for military policy: "military science".' Discuss.

OR

(b) How does the Soviet/Russian theoretical discipline of 'military science' differ from the main methodological approaches employed in the Western discipline of 'strategic studies'?

2. Was the thinking of the Soviet military establishment about nuclear weapons in essence similar to that of its Western counterparts?
3. 'The recruitment, mobilization and training systems of the Soviet Armed Forces reflected the unified character of Soviet society and the country's economic system. Today the relationship between the military and socio-economic systems is one of discontinuity'. Discuss.
4. Compare and contrast the views of reformers in the Soviet military establishment with those of civilian 'New Thinkers' between 1985 and 1991.
5. Compare the effectiveness of the responses of Yeltsin and Putin to the challenges of 'military reform'.
6. How effectively was the Soviet defence sector protected from the problems that afflicted other branches of the economy by the priority system in the period 1965-1991?
7. Assess the differences in official Soviet and Western measures of Soviet defence expenditure and the defence burden over the period 1965-1991.
8. How effective have Russian military (MoD and non-MoD) 'peacekeepers' [*mirotvortsy*] been in the 'near abroad'? Discuss with reference to AT LEAST TWO of the following: Transnistria, Abkhazia/South Ossetia, Tajikistan.
9. How have the attitudes of the military establishment towards NATO enlargement differed from those of the political leadership since 1991?
10. Evaluate the success of Russian programmes to promote the restructuring of the defence industry and the acceleration of technological progress within it during the period 1992-2000.