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# AS HISTORY

The Crisis of Communism: the USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953–2000  
Component 2T Crisis in the Soviet Union, 1953–2000

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Tuesday 22 May 2018      Afternoon      Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2T.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From an article in 'The Harvard Crimson', the daily student newspaper of Harvard University, USA, by an American student, February 1988.

Gorbachev has announced that the Soviet Union will withdraw from Afghanistan. The Soviet leader has also said that the Kremlin does not want a say in who governs Afghanistan after the departure of its estimated 115,000 troops, who have been battling Afghan guerrillas for more than eight years. The intervention has been a major irritant in US-Soviet relations. It is the clearest indication yet that Gorbachev is moving rapidly to remove his country from the conflict that he has termed a "bleeding wound". At the White House, a spokesman said that Gorbachev's statement "sounds like a positive step and we hope it is".

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**Source B**

From 'Perestroika' by Mikhail Gorbachev, published in 1988. This summarised speeches given by Gorbachev, 1985–87.

On the whole, we have long lived in peace. But the current international situation can't be described as satisfactory. The nuclear arms race goes on. Regional conflicts are raging. The war danger grows. To make international relations more humane is the only way out – and that is a difficult thing to do. It is essential to rise above ideological differences. A new model of political thinking is necessary; one that proceeds from the idea that civilisation must survive. If we reach an understanding on the criteria of such new thinking, we shall arrive at valid decisions for global issues. If political leaders realise that point and implement it practically, it will be a major victory for reason.

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**0 1**

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the ending of the Cold War?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**Either**

**0 2** 'Khrushchev was successful in his policy of peaceful co-existence with the West.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3** 'The 10th Five Year Plan of 1976–81 failed to improve living standards in the USSR.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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