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# A-level HISTORY

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

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Wednesday 13 June 2018 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/2T.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  - 60 minutes on Question 01
  - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a description of East Germany's (GDR) failed attempt to surpass West Germany (FRG) in economic productivity, by Werner Barm, a West German journalist, July 1970.

The economic problems of the GDR stem from three shortcomings: it does not have a free self-regulating market, prices that react flexibly, or local initiative. But according to the Party, no one is allowed to even conceive of such an analysis. The serious shortfalls in the production of industrial consumer goods are described in the GDR press as being 'caused by the weather'. When Khrushchev announced the programme of catching up with the United States, Ulbricht came out with the short-term economic slogan of 'catching up with the Federal Republic'. The gap in labour productivity however, between the FRG and the GDR has remained constant at 34%. The next East German leader cannot once again serve his followers the same old slogan of chasing after the FRG and gradually getting closer. The new magic words to build up the self-confidence of the people of the state are 'overtaking without catching up'.

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**Source B**

From a report on the 'Unity of Economic and Social Policy', by Erich Honecker, the new East German leader to the SED (Socialist Unity Party) Central Committee, June 1971.

Today it takes our factories less than nine months to produce as much as they did in the whole of 1965. As we now embark on the new Five-Year Plan, we are richer in knowledge and experience when it comes to taking full advantage of the economic laws of socialism. The main task of the Five-Year Plan is to increase the material and cultural standard of living of our people further, on the basis of the rapid development of socialist production, increased effectiveness, scientific-technological progress, and higher work productivity. For our society, the economy is the means to an end, the means to the ever-better satisfaction of the growing material and cultural needs of the working people. Trust in the sense of responsibility, the expert knowledge, the experience, and the creative riches of workers; trust in the ability of the leaders of our factories to take full advantage of such initiative, to promote and incorporate it. It opens up new space for socialist competition.

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**Source C**

From an article in Tagespiegel, a West German newspaper, entitled 'Shortages complicate Christmas shopping in East Germany (GDR)', by Michael Mara, a West German journalist, 21 December 1980.

GDR citizens race from store to store mostly because of supply shortages. Not without reason did Central Committee Secretary Jarowinsky state that greater effort is needed to improve the availability of goods. When you talk to GDR citizens these days, you often hear opinions like the following: "Whatever you want to buy is either unavailable or much too expensive. Everything that's scarce is sold under the table." The GDR population continues to criticise the high export levels. Recently, the media has responded repeatedly to the criticism, stressing that supply cannot be improved by reducing exports. The media maintain that even more exports are necessary to cover the costs of urgently needed delivery of raw materials, certain foods and luxury foodstuffs, and other goods that cannot be produced in the GDR. It is indeed true that the GDR cannot solve its supply problem by limiting exports. What is needed is the production of far more – and better – goods, both for export and domestic consumption, with greater attention being paid to demand.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the economy of the GDR in the years 1970 to 1980.

**[30 marks]****Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** To what extent did Khrushchev bring about social and cultural change within the Soviet Union in the years 1956 to 1964? **[25 marks]**

**0 3** To what extent was Yeltsin's resignation due to his economic policies? **[25 marks]**

**0 4** 'Shock therapy' was more effective than the 'gradualist' approach in restoring capitalism in the former Soviet satellite states in the years 1989 to 1997.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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