

# Advance information June 2022

## A-level History (7042)

### Version 1.0

Because of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are providing advance information on the focus of June 2022 exams to help students revise.

This is the advance information for **A-level History (7042), 2T The Crisis of Communism: the USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953-2000**.

## Information

- This notice covers advanced information for **7042/2T The Crisis of Communism: the USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953-2000**.
- There are no restrictions on who can use this notice.
- This notice is meant to support final revision.
- The format/structure of the papers remains unchanged.
- You are **not** permitted to take this notice into the exam.

## Advice

- Students and teachers can discuss this advance information notice.
- Questions will be drawn from one or more of the indicated areas of specification content.
- The information is presented in specification order and not in question order.
- Students **will** be credited for using any relevant knowledge when answering questions.
- Students **will not** be disadvantaged if solely using the areas indicated in this document. There is no expectation of knowledge beyond that identified in order to achieve full marks.
- It is advised that teaching and learning should still aim to address the entire subject content in the specification.

## Focus of the June 2022 exam

This paper will sample from the following areas of the specification content for **7042/2T**.

### Part one: Crisis in the Soviet Union, 1953-2000

#### Section one: De-Stalinisation, 1953-1964

- Khrushchev as leader: character; ideology and aims; style of leadership; political and legal reforms: the Secret Speech and de-Stalinisation within the USSR; changes to party organisation

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- Economic and social developments: the reasons for and results of reform of industry and agriculture, including partial decentralisation and the virgin lands scheme; social conditions and living standards; the extent of the 'thaw' culturally

#### **Section two: Years of Stagnation, 1964-1985**

- N/A

#### **Section three: The Gorbachev Revolution, 1985-2000**

- Gorbachev as leader: personality, aims and power base; reasons for perestroika, glasnost and demokratizatsiya; withdrawal from Afghanistan and readiness to end the Cold War; summit meetings leading to the Malta Agreement
- Economic, political and social policies under Gorbachev: impact of Chernobyl; attempts at economic restructuring and the outcome; the attempt to democratise the Soviet political system and its outcome; main political reforms
- Revolution and counter-revolution in the USSR: opposition to Gorbachev's policies; nationalist unrest; deepening economic and political crises; the coup of August 1991 and Yeltsin's counter-attack; Gorbachev's resignation as president; the collapse of the USSR; reasons for Gorbachev's apparent failure

### **Part two: Crisis in the Soviet Empire, 1953-2000**

#### **Section four: Soviet Satellites, 1953-1968**

- Threats to stability in the Soviet satellite states: risings in East Germany, Poland and Hungary; issues over Berlin and the Berlin Wall; Dubcek and the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia; reasons for the threats, their development and outcome for the state and for its relations with USSR

#### **Section five: 'Real existing Socialism', 1968-1980**

- Political developments in the satellite states of central Europe: Poland and the leadership of Gierek; Czechoslovakia and the leadership of Husak; Hungary and the leadership of Kadar; the GDR and the leadership of Honecker; policy changes and the extent of reform
- Economic and social developments in the Soviet satellite states: economic reforms; strengths and weaknesses; the influence of the West, economically and socially

#### **Section six: The Collapse of the Soviet Empire, 1980-2000**

- N/A

END OF ADVANCE INFORMATION