

A-level HISTORY

Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

Wednesday 3 June 2020 Morning 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 7042/2L.
- 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.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From an article written by a British reporter in Italy and published in the British newspaper, 'The Times', May 1921. This was the day before the Italian election.

The election of November 1919 was a triumph for the Socialists. For nearly a year Italy lived in a revolutionary state. The strike mania was general. There was no longer any authority in the country. Signor Nitti, weak and powerless, let things go from bad to worse. The climax was reached in September 1920 when the factories were seized and workmen, armed with rifles, held them for a few days like fortresses. 5

The great manufacturers said that Italy should now be saved from Bolshevism. When the Fascists, composed of ex-soldiers, began to show opposition to the Socialists there was general applause and encouragement. The growth of the Fascist movement was wonderful. They were hailed as liberators. It is a pity that their actions were not controlled and kept within just and reasonable limits. As it is, a Fascist Terror has now replaced the Red Terror. Excesses are now committed by the Fascists which are condemned by Signor Mussolini and all other responsible leaders of the movement. 10

Source B

From the diary of Italo Balbo, July 1922. Balbo was a Ras (Fascist squad leader) and was describing events in Ravenna in the north. The diary was published in 1932.

The flames from the great burning building rose ominously into the night. The whole town was illuminated by the glare. We had to strike terror into the hearts of our enemies. I announced to the chief of police that I would burn down and destroy the houses of all the Socialists in Ravenna, if he did not give me within half an hour the means required for sending the Fascists elsewhere. I demanded a whole fleet of lorries. The police officers told me where I could find the lorries already supplied with petrol. Some of them actually belonged to the office of the police chief. 5

I was organising a 'column of fire' to extend our reprisals throughout the province. We went through all the towns in the provinces of Forli and Ravenna and destroyed all the red buildings, the seats of the Socialist and Communist organisations. The whole area was given up to the reprisals of the outraged Fascists determined to break for ever the Red Terror. 10

Source C

From Mussolini's speech to a mass rally of Fascists, 20 September 1922. The speech was printed in the Fascist newspaper, 'Il Popolo d'Italia'.

I think that the regime can be reformed without interfering with the monarchy. We shall leave the institution of monarchy outside our field of action. We think that a great part of Italy would be suspicious of a change in regime which went so far. We have other great aims. I do not think that the monarchy has any real objection to what must now be called the 'Fascist Revolution'. Those who sympathise with us must not withdraw; they must have the courage to remain monarchists. The monarchy would represent the historical continuity of the nation. 5

We must have a state which does not represent a party but represents the nation as a whole; a state which does not fall under the power of the Socialists. We must have a state which is not like the liberal state which, after fifty years of life, was unable to install a temporary printing press to issue its paper when there was a general strike of printers. 10

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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 rise of Fascism in Italy in the years 1920 to 1922.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent did the rise of socialism cause political instability in Italy in the years 1911 to 1914?
[25 marks]

0 3 'The strength of the Fascist regime in the 1930s depended on the police state.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'In the years 1936 to 1939, the close relationship with Germany was of no benefit to Italy.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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