

A



# **AS HISTORY**

**Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945**

**Component 2L The crisis of Liberal Italy and the Rise of  
Mussolini, c1900–1926**

**7041/2L**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**For this paper you must have:**

- **an AQA 16-page answer book.**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7041/2L.**
- **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.**

**DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO**

**SECTION A****Answer Question 01.****SOURCE A**

**From a newspaper report, 'The Fascist Triumph' in 'The Times' newspaper, published in London, 30 October 1922. The report was written in London, based on telegrams received from Rome.**

**The King of Italy has invited Mussolini to form a government. There are very wholesome and very evil elements in Fascism; it has yet to be seen which will triumph. The revolution, for it plainly is a revolution, has been rapid and bloodless. Fascism has 'become the state', as Mussolini declared it would. Everything fell flat before the Fascists. They mobilised their armed forces all over North and Central Italy. They occupied post offices, railway stations and other public buildings. They sent large numbers of Fascists which were concentrated on Rome. The news which gets across the frontier is doubtless censored in the traditional Italian fashion, but if it is true, no revolution had an easier course.**

**SOURCE B**

From 'Sawdust Caesar' by George Seldes, published 1936. Seldes was an American journalist working in Italy from 1923 to 1925. Seldes was expelled from Italy in 1925 for criticising Mussolini.

On 30 October 1922, Mussolini got off the train and, in his black shirt, met the King. The next day 20 000 Fascists who had arrived by train, and the many thousands who came to Rome after its 'capture', were reviewed by Prime Minister Mussolini and King Victor Emmanuel together. The photographs of this event to this day are labelled, 'Mussolini leading the March on Rome'. But the Duce of Fascism had not been there. There was no revolution. No blood was shed. It was a military conspiracy in which the generals and the government were involved and the industrialists were the financial supporters. Nevertheless it was a great victory for Mussolini. 'I was triumphant in Rome', he wrote triumphantly.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the March on Rome? [25 marks]

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**SECTION B**

**Answer EITHER Question 02 OR Question 03.**

**EITHER**

**02**

**‘The conflict between the Church and the State was the main weakness of Italy in 1900.’**

**Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.  
[25 marks]**

**OR**

**03**

**‘Italy was weakened by the peace treaties of 1919/20.’**

**Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.  
[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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