



Mock Test

AC Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and Communism

Answers



Interpretation A

Historian Catriona Kelly writing in 2005 about Stalin's cult of personality.

**As the Stalin cult became established over the course of the 1930s, and the fate of the entire nation was attributed to Stalin's wise rule, the leader was also shown as being directly responsible for the lives and fates of children [...]
The Stalin cult was vital in shaping political understanding in the Soviet masses. It taught children how to regard Stalin, and emphasised to adults that he was the "best friend of Soviet children" and hence a humane, caring leader.**

Source: Catriona Kelly, *Riding The Magic Carpet: Children and Leader Cult in the Stalin Era*, 2005, (p.199).

Interpretation B

Extract from Nikita Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech', 'On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences,' Delivered at the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (February 25th 1956). Khrushchev took over from Stalin after his death in 1953 and gave his so called 'Secret Speech' to denounce Stalin's cult of personality.

Comrades, if we sharply criticize today the cult of the individual which was so widespread during Stalin's life and if we speak about the many negative phenomena generated by this cult which is so alien to the spirit of Marxism-Leninism, various persons may ask: How could it be? Stalin headed the party and the country for 30 years and many victories were gained during his lifetime. Can we deny this? In my opinion, the question can be asked in this manner only by those who are blinded and hopelessly hypnotized by the cult of the individual, only by those who do not understand the essence of the revolution and of the Soviet State, only by those who do not understand, in a Leninist manner, the role of the party and of the nation in the development of the Soviet society...

**1. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about Stalin's cult of personality? Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(4 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' content to explain difference Answers show extended reasoning to explain difference
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' content to identify differences

Indicative content:

- Interpretation A suggests that 'the Stalin cult was vital in shaping political understanding in the Soviet masses'. It generated and familiarised a specific presentation of Stalin that was him as a humane leader. This was 'established in the 1930s' and continued until Stalin's death in 1953.
- Interpretation B comparatively finds that Stalin's Cult of Personality generated 'negative' political understanding by opposing the spirit of Marxism-Leninism. Those who were shaped by the Cult of Personality were 'blinded' and did not understand the 'essence of revolution' that 1930s Russia was built upon.

Other relevant material should be credited

2. Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about Stalin's cult of personality?

Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.

(4 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' provenance to explain reasons for differences Answers progress from identification of differences to explanation of differences
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' provenance to identify reasons for differences

Indicative content:

- **Interpretation A was written by a scholar of Stalin in 2005. Their aim is likely to study Stalin's Cult of Personality and reflect on its impact on Russia as a whole.**
- **Interpretation B was written by Khrushchev, Stalin's successor, who gave the speech of Interpretation B to foreground the ways in which he intended to separate his rule from Stalin's.**

Other relevant material should be credited

**3. Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about Stalin's cult of personality?
Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and using what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(8 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
<p>Level 4 7-8 marks</p>	<p>Complex evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>A clear judgement is sustained throughout</p> <p>Answers at this level could analyse the relationship between the interpretations, supported by factual knowledge/understanding</p>
<p>Level 3 5-6 marks</p>	<p>Developed evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>Answers may show extended reasoning</p> <p>Answers may make a judgement</p>
<p>Level 2 3-4 marks</p>	<p>Simple evaluation of one interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>They may be basic comments about the other interpretation</p>
<p>Level 1 1-2 marks</p>	<p>Basic evaluation of one or both interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p>

Indicative content:

Arguments in favour of Interpretation A:

- **The immediate need from Khrushchev to discredit Stalin's Cult of Personality in 1956 shows the extent of its influence, therefore legitimizing the perspective of Interpretation A, who viewed the large impact of the Cult of Personality on Russia.**
- **Kelly accurately describes how Stalin was depicted in propaganda images promoting the cult of personality - he was seen as a father figure. As a historian, Kelly would have been able to review these documents.**
- **It could be noted that the extent to which this interpretation could be used to argue whether or not the public were 'blinded' depends on whether the historian sees Stalin as really being this kind leader, or if that was simply the facade he created.**

Arguments in favour of Interpretation B:

- **Interpretation B suggests that Stalin's Cult of Personality 'blinded' Russia in order to force Stalin's political ideas, to assert his power.**
- **The 1936 constitution suggests the ways in which Stalin restructured government to assert his own power, for example, by establishing the Supreme Soviet and controlling all 15 republics from Moscow. This suggests that the Cult of Personality was a tool to affirm Stalin's changes and control public opinion to ensure these changes remained.**

Other relevant material should be credited

**4. Describe two problems people living in the USSR faced as a result of Stalin's economic reforms.
(4 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Answers show knowledge and understanding Answers may show extended reasoning
Level 1 1-2 marks	Answers show knowledge

Indicative content:

- **Because of the 'liquidation of the kulaks as a class', peasants were forced to live on collective farms, and were branded a kulak and attacked if they refused. Thousands were killed and 10 million were taken to labour camps in Siberia.**
- **Rapid industrialisation caused working conditions to suffer. Many women were drawn into the workforce on a large scale, housed in barracks with arduous working conditions and shortage of childcare.**

Other relevant material should be credited

**5. In what ways were the lives of Russian citizens affected by Bolshevik rule of Russia?
(8 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 7-8 marks	Complex explanation of changes Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding Answers at this level could explain the complex nature of change affected by differences such as time, group or social/economic factors, supported by knowledge and understanding
Level 3 5-6 marks	Developed explanation of changes Answers show a range of relevant, accurate knowledge and understanding (of 2 more more identified consequences)
Level 2 3-4 marks	Simple explanation of change Answers show specific knowledge and understanding about one of the identified changes
Level 1 1-2 marks	Basic explanation of one or more changes

Indicative content:

- **Positive social changes occurred - for example the 1919 Decree on Illiteracy made learning to read and write compulsory and homosexuality was legalised.**
- **one of the first things Lenin did was withdraw Russia from WW1. This was a key demand of the people and a key reason why revolution broke out. However the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was also very harsh and caused Russia economic problems which negatively impacted people's lives.**
- **The impact on people's lives was different at different times - for example during the civil war, war communism had a very negative impact on peasants as grain was taken from them and food rationing was introduced.**

Other relevant material should be credited

6. Which of the following was the most important reason why revolution broke out in February 1917?

-Mistakes made by Tsar Nicholas II

-The growth of opposition groups

Explain your answer with reference to both bullet points.

(12 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 10-12 marks	Complex explanation of both points leading to a sustained judgement Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding Answers at this level could explain the relationship between causes supported by knowledge and understanding leading to a sustained judgement
Level 3 7-9 marks	Developed evaluation of both points Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding Answers show extended reasoning
Level 2 4-6 marks	Simple explanation of one or both points Answers show specific relevant knowledge and understanding
Level 1 1-3 marks	Basic explanation of one or both points

Indicative content:

- **Revolution stemmed from the ongoing economic and political crisis in Russia, from the failures of the First World War.**
- **WW1 generated widespread discontent through food shortages, rising inflation, loss of Russian life due to military failures and the slowing of industry.**
- **This was connected directly to the Tsar, due to his role as commander-in-chief. Many disagreed with him leaving the country to be ruled by his wife, Tsarina Alexandra, who ruled poorly and ignored the Duma.**
- **At the same time as this growing discontent, many opposition groups increased in popularity as they offered a tangible alternative to Tsarist regime.**
- **Out of these groups, the Bolsheviks support grew rapidly, as they promised to fix the problems that were directly linked to the Tsar.**

Other relevant material should be credited