



Mock Test

AC Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and Communism

Name: _____

Class: _____



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...







