AQA

# A-level
# HISTORY

## Component 2L Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945

Friday 7 June 2024 Afternoon 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:
  – 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  – 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

## Section A

Answer Question 01.

**Source A**

From a speech to the workers of Milan by Benito Mussolini, 6 October 1934. The speech followed the creation of 22 corporations for the major industries.

Comrade workers! Five years ago, in this month, the capitalist economy crashed with a terrific noise. Countless fortunes were destroyed. This was the end of the liberal-capitalist economy. The Fascist economy will no longer aim at individual profit; it will act in the interests of everyone. The solution is the Corporate State. This means the self-discipline of production is entrusted to producers. When I say producers, I do not mean only industrialists or employers, I also mean the workers. Fascism establishes the real equality of individuals in work and in the nation. The object of the Fascist regime in the economic field is to ensure higher social justice for the whole Italian people. This means guaranteed work, fair wages, decent homes, and the possibility of continuous improvement. Nor is this enough. It means that the workers must enter more and more closely into the productive process and share its necessary discipline. Since 1929, the mass of the Italian workers has come to support the Fascist Revolution.

**Source B**

From 'Lectures on Fascism' given in Moscow by Palmiro Togliatti in 1935. Togliatti was an Italian Communist in exile; he was speaking to other Italian Communists.

The Corporate State is nothing but a series of words, of slogans, with which Fascism tries to cover up the dictatorship. The Corporate State is not only a propaganda tool, it is also a system of political control which restricts every democratic liberty and every possibility for the workers to organise for themselves. Even if the corporations had some importance, they would not be able to do anything which was not approved by the Fascist Party. Along with the representatives of the employers, there are the same number of representatives of the workers, but also representatives of the Fascist Party. Even if the employees' representatives were truly representative of the workers, the upper hand would still be given to the bosses by the Fascist Party. There is only one president of the corporations: Mussolini. It is a mistake to think that because Fascism is able to influence the masses it means that the masses support Fascism. There is no great support from the Italian people for corporatism.

**Source C**

From 'Inside Europe' by John Gunther, published in London, 1936. Gunther was a journalist who travelled widely in Europe, investigating the political situation in the mid-1930s.

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Source C is from a journalist who travelled around Europe in the 1930s. He argues that the Italian economy is run for the benefit of the state and that the disadvantages to workers in the Corporate State are very severe. He concludes that Mussolini's Fascism is propping up the capitalist structure, whether this is accidental or not.

**0 1** With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Corporate State in Italy.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

## Section B

Answer **two** questions.

**0 2** ‘In the ten years before entering the First World War in 1915, Italy was politically stable and economically strong.’

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 3** To what extent was Mussolini’s rise to power, in the years 1919 to 1922, due to Fascist opposition to Socialism?

**[25 marks]**

**0 4** ‘In the years 1935 to 1939, the war in Abyssinia brought considerable benefits for Mussolini and Italy.’

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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