

GCE
AS and A Level

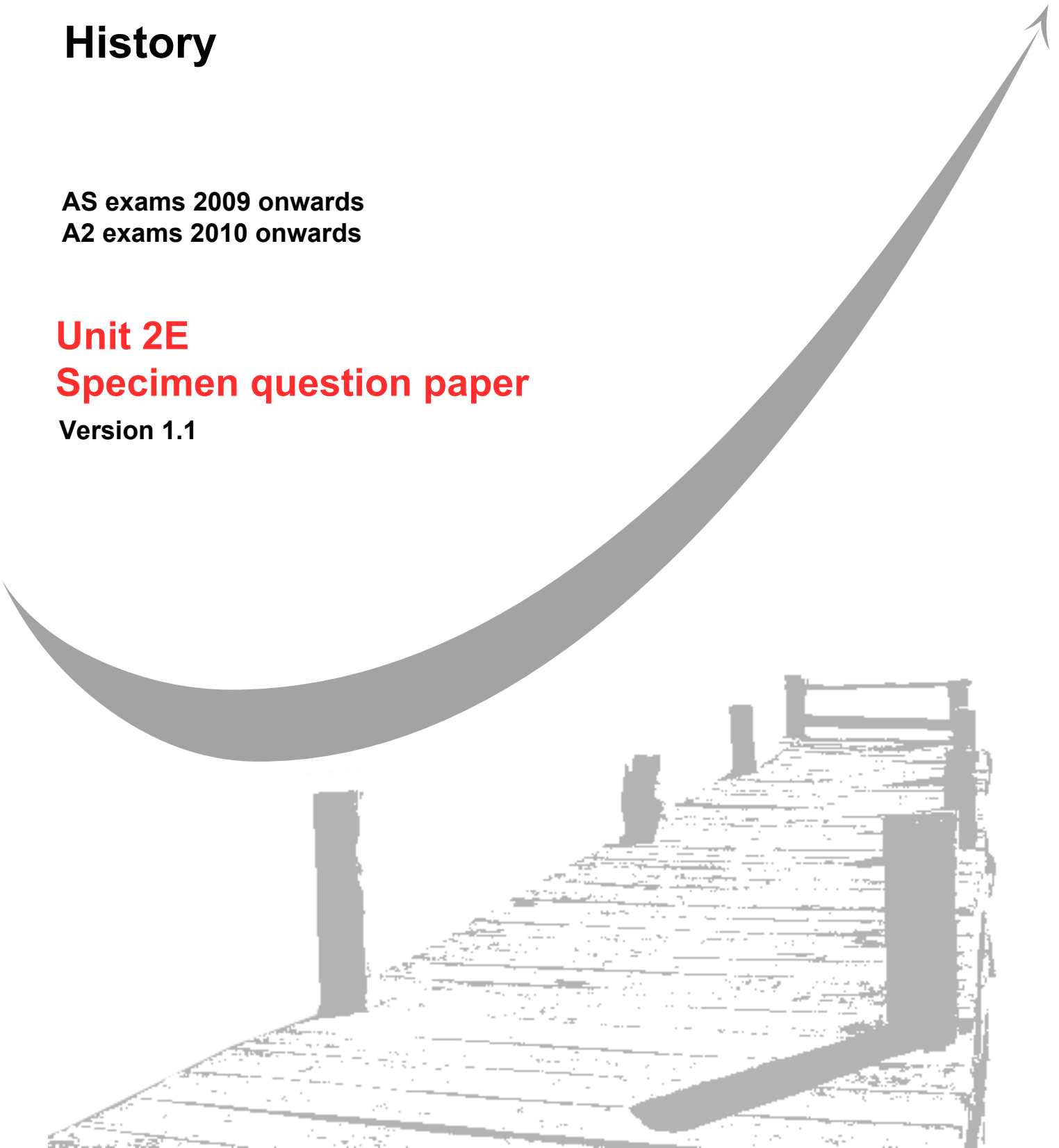
History

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 2E

Specimen question paper

Version 1.1



HISTORY

HIS2E

Unit 2

The Reign of Peter the Great of Russia, 1682–1725

<DAY>

<TIME>

For this paper you must have:

- A 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HIS2E.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

HIS2E

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Peter's Great Embassy had given him the desire to modernise. Once he returned to Moscow he at once sought to impose western ways on his subjects. Shortly afterwards, Peter drew up plans for the new capital at St Petersburg under the supervision of an Italian architect. This process of westernisation sped up during the first years of the
5 1700s. But when Russia went to war unprepared against Sweden, a basic lack of resources, combined with poor military provision and administrative disorganization made Russia an easy target. Peter was thus forced to increase the process of modernisation, but the changes he introduced were patchy. As a consequence Russia's westernisation proved more uneven and shallow than might have been the case.

Adapted from *The Tsars, Russia, Poland and the Ukraine*, M RADY 1990

Source B War dictated the style and pace of reform. Initial changes were introduced rapidly and with a minimum of preparation while later in the reign there was more time to rationalise the whole process. At no stage did Peter have an overall design; he was guided by necessity and found the answer in simply transplanting ideas from the west. When Peter
5 said after the Battle of Narva that Russia would learn from the Swedes how to eventually defeat them, he was expressing his underlying attitude to change. Yet it is hardly an exaggeration to speak of Peter as the founder of the modern Russian state.

Adapted from *Peter the Great*, SJ LEE, 1993

Source C New customs would have to be adopted; Peter demanded that his nobles accept such changes, and, by and large, they conformed. Were Russians really changed? Russia appeared different, with its new industries, and a westernised elite. Although the nobles wore their new clothes and shaved, this was conformity, not conversion. They lived in
5 St Petersburg but longed to return to Moscow.

Adapted from *Peter the Great*, J SWIFT, 2000

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to the reasons for westernisation. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How successful was Peter the Great's policy of Westernisation by 1725? (24 marks)

EITHER 2

- (a) Explain why Peter launched two attacks to gain Azov in 1695 and 1696. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'Peter the Great's leadership was the most important reason for the success of his foreign policy.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR 3

- (a) Explain why Peter the Great promoted Russian industrial development. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The size of Russia was the most important factor limiting the success of Peter the Great's economic reforms.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: M RAY, *The Tsars, Russia, Poland and the Ukraine, 1462–1725*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1990.
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Question 1 Source B: S LEE, *Peter the Great*, Routledge, 1993

Question 1 Source C: J SWIFT, *Peter the Great*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2000. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

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