Summer Examinations 2016

HIS201316N

Module Title: Comrades and Revolutions! A Global History of the Communist Movement
Level: Five
Time Allowed: One hour thirty minutes

Instructions to students:

- Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
- Candidates must answer one question from Section A and comment on one question from Section B.
- Section A carries 67% of the overall marks.
- Section B carries 33% of the overall marks.
- Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.
- The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.

No. of Pages: 3
No. of Questions: 5
Section A

Answer one of the following questions.

1. To what extent was the Soviet Union the most important Communist state of the twentieth century?

2. How closely did leaders of Communist states during the twentieth century implement the ideals that Karl Marx expressed in his writings?

3. In what ways did World War I and World War II create opportunities for new Communist states to emerge?

End of Section A
Section B follows overleaf
Section B

Comment on one of the following:

4. Extract from *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) Short Course*, (1938)

In February 1935, the Seventh Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics passed a decision to change the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. which had been adopted in 1924. The change of the Constitution was necessitated by the vast changes that had taken place in the life of the U.S.S.R. since the first Constitution of the Soviet Union had been adopted in 1924. During this period the relation of class forces within the country had completely changed; a new Socialist industry had been created, the kulaks had been smashed, the collective farm system had triumphed, and the Socialist ownership of the means of production had been established in every branch of national economy as the basis of Soviet society. The victory of Socialism made possible the further democratisation of the electoral system and the introduction of universal, equal and direct suffrage with secret ballot...

5. Extract from the *People’s Daily* article ‘It Is Necessary To Take A Clear-Cut Stance Against Disturbances’, (26 April 1989)

Taking into consideration the feelings of grief suffered by the masses, the party and government have adopted an attitude of tolerance and restraint toward some improper words uttered and actions carried out by the young students when they were emotionally agitated. On April 22, before the memorial meeting was held, some students had already showed up at Tiananmen Square, but they were not asked to leave, as they normally would have been. Instead, they were asked to observe discipline and join in the mourning for Comrade Hu Yaobang...

However, after the memorial meeting, an extremely small number of people with ulterior purposes continued to take advantage of the young students' feelings of grief for Comrade Hu Yaobang to spread all kinds of rumors to poison and confuse people’s minds. Using both big and small-character posters, they vilified, hurled invectives at, and attacked party and state leaders. Blatantly violating the Constitution, they called for opposition to the leadership by the Communist Party and the socialist system.

End of Section B
End of Paper