Examination Period 3: 2018/19

Module Title: Comrades and Revolutions! A Global History of the Communist Movement

Level: Five

Time Allowed: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to students:

• Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
• Answer two questions: one from Section A and one 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.
• Books or notes may not be taken into the examination.
• The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.

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Section A

Answer one out of three questions.

1. How effectively did the Soviet Union control other communist states in Europe and Asia in the twentieth century?

2. How did communist states in the twentieth century use Marxism to inform their policies of modernisation and industrialisation?

3. How did Asian communist states differ from those in Europe in the twentieth century?

End of Section A
Section B follows overleaf
Section B

Comment on the content and the context of one of the following two documents.


‘Comrades, today I would like to talk on the fundamental tasks of the Young Communist League and, in this connection, on what the youth organizations in a socialist republic should be like in general […]

It is all the more necessary to dwell on this question because in a certain sense it may be said that it is the youth that will be faced with the actual task of creating a communist society. For it is clear that the generation of working people brought up in capitalist society can, at best, accomplish the task of destroying the foundations of the old, the capitalist way of life, which was built on exploitation. At best it will be able to accomplish the tasks of creating a social system that will help the proletariat and the working classes retain power and lay a firm foundation, which can be built on only by a generation that is starting to work under the new conditions, in a situation in which relations based on the exploitation of man by man no longer exist.

And so, in dealing from this angle with the tasks confronting the youth, I must say that the tasks of the youth in general, and of the Young Communist Leagues and all other organizations in particular, might be summed up in a single word: learn.’

Section B continues overleaf

‘Gorbachev has set an ambitious agenda for Eastern Europe. His aims are to secure East European support for the Soviet modernization drive, promote broader Soviet foreign policy objectives through closer Warsaw Pact coordination, and stimulate a deeper process of economic and political regeneration in the region. Aware of the region's diversity, he has set general guidelines for reform rather than detailed plans. But he faces East European realities – severe economic problems, aging leaderships, and mounting social discontent - that conflict with Soviet objectives. Soviet policy under Gorbachev has sought to balance the competing objectives of encouraging change and promoting stability. Although Gorbachev has avoided a high-risk strategy of forcing change on these fragile political systems, continuing Soviet pressure, as well as the example of the Soviet reform program, has introduced new tensions into the region [...] 

Not since the early Khrushchev years have policy changes in the USSR had so profound an impact on Eastern Europe as those now being pushed by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. These new winds blowing from Moscow, as well as serious internal economic and political dilemmas, have ushered in an era of considerable uncertainty - and potentially of significant change-in Eastern Europe.’

End of Section B
End of Paper