4.10 Gorbachev's New Thinking: Glasnost, Perestroika and Reform in the USSR: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 State two changes made to the Soviet political system in 1990.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State two aims of perestroika introduced by Gorbachev in the USSR after 1985.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Give the phrase Gorbachev used to describe his overall change in approach to foreign and security policy, stressing diplomacy and cooperation over confrontation.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

4 State two reasons why Gorbachev was prepared to allow more independence for Eastern European satellite states after 1985.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Explain two consequences of Gorbachev introducing glasnost and perestroika in the USSR after 1985.

(Total for Question 5 is 8 marks)

6 Write a narrative account analysing how Gorbachev's 'New Thinking' altered Soviet domestic and foreign policy between 1985 and 1991.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- how glasnost changed political debate and public expectations within the USSR
- how New Thinking affected relations with Eastern European satellite states

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 6 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.10 Gorbachev's New Thinking: Glasnost, Perestroika and Reform in the USSR: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly of power (Article 6 of the constitution) was ended, which allowed other parties to form	**B1**
Gorbachev became the Soviet Union's first executive President (chosen by the Congress of People's Deputies) (accept other valid changes, e.g. a Presidential Council was set up, or multi-party elections were held in some republics)	**B1**

Answer: The Party's constitutional monopoly of power was ended, and Gorbachev became executive President.

Question 2

introduce some market-type incentives or decentralise economic decision-making	**B1**
improve efficiency and modernisation of industry and agriculture	**B1**

Answer: E.g. to introduce limited market incentives and decentralise economic decisions, and to modernise industry and agriculture to raise efficiency.

Question 3

New Thinking	**B1**

Answer: New Thinking

Question 4

to reduce the economic and military cost of keeping strict control over satellite states	**B1**
belief that reform in Eastern Europe should be allowed so long as it reduced tension and avoided direct confrontation	**B1**

Answer: To lower the economic and military burden of direct control, and because he judged that allowing reform would reduce tensions and avoid confrontation.

Question 5

Level 1 Identifies one or two general consequences of glasnost and perestroika, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.	**1-2**
Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail.	**3-4**
Level 3 Explains two consequences of Gorbachev's reforms, each supported by accurate and relevant detail.	**5-6**
Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect.	**7-8**

Indicative content:

- Political opening, glasnost, led to increased public criticism of the Communist Party and exposure of past abuses, which weakened the Party's authority and encouraged demands for political pluralism.
- Economic restructuring, perestroika, aimed to improve efficiency but often led to disruption and shortages as central controls were loosened and old supply mechanisms broke down, reducing living standards and increasing public dissatisfaction.
- Glasnost encouraged nationalist movements in the Soviet republics by allowing discussion of local grievances and historical injustices, which contributed to pressures for independence in places such as the Baltic states.
- Gorbachev's reforms changed expectations: once open debate and limited market mechanisms were permitted, populations in the USSR and Eastern Europe pressed for faster and more radical change, making controlled reform harder to manage.

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Question 6

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements with little organisation or sense of change over time. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is deployed with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the situation changed, with accurate supporting detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Demonstrates a coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how the situation changed, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- From 1985 Gorbachev introduced perestroika and glasnost to tackle economic malaise and political stagnation, starting with modest reforms such as allowing more openness in the press and limited enterprise autonomy.
- Glasnost led to more public debate about the Soviet past and present, including criticism of Stalinist crimes and acknowledgement of economic failures, which altered public expectations and eroded unquestioning loyalty to the Party.
- Perestroika attempted to decentralise planning and introduce incentives, but it encountered resistance from managers and the Party, producing economic disruption and shortages that intensified public frustration.
- In foreign policy, New Thinking reduced willingness to use force to keep Eastern Europe in line, so the USSR tolerated greater independence and reform in satellite states, altering the Brezhnev-era norm of intervention.
- By 1991 the combined effect of rising nationalism, economic problems and political openness had transformed the Soviet system: local leaders and republics pushed for autonomy, and the old centralised model found it increasingly hard to hold together.

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