



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2013

## History

## HIS2K

**Unit 2K A New Roman Empire? Mussolini's Italy, 1922–1945**

**Tuesday 22 January 2013 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 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 HIS2K.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

### **Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** Bluff was all important in Mussolini's rise to power. In the summer of 1922, Fascism was still far from an irresistible force in Italy. Despite Fascism's popular support (membership stood at around 300 000, and Fascists controlled the administration in several northern towns and cities) no more than 30 000 militants, mostly ill-armed, 5 were actually available for action. The March on Rome might easily have been squashed had the government and army resisted. Army officers, despite the pro-fascist sentiments of many, were expected to obey a royal command to resist the Fascists. In the event, however, the established powers made it easy for Mussolini. With the Fascists mobilising in the provinces, the prime minister requested the King's 10 signature to a decree of martial law. Having first agreed, the King changed his mind.

Adapted from M BLINKHORN, *Mussolini and Fascist Italy*, 2006

**Source B** By autumn 1922, the Fascists had already taken over most of the country north of Rome. They ran local government, they could demand unofficial taxes and their unions controlled the labour market. Mussolini continued his political manoeuvres, aiming at nothing less than national power. He now had a militia and this was a useful 5 threat to keep in reserve, but he did not intend to use force. To use force might mean having to fight the army, obviously a catastrophic outcome. The key actor now was not the government, which no longer mattered, but King Victor Emmanuel III. Only the King could order the army to fight against the Fascists; on the other hand, only the King could bring Mussolini to power by constitutional means.

Adapted from M CLARK, *Mussolini: Profiles in Power*, 2005

**Source C** In October 1922, Mussolini was appointed prime minister in an essentially constitutional way but, to please the rank and file, a 'victory' parade of *squadristi* was held through the streets of Rome in order to promote the appearance of a coup d' état. This confused start set the tone for the following two years. Mussolini had to alternate 5 between appeasing the Italian establishment (on whom he depended for continuance in office) and reassuring the provincial Fascist bosses and their followers that he was still a revolutionary. Mussolini bowed to popular calls for a return to stability, order and normality.

Adapted from C DUGGAN, *A Concise History of Italy*, 1994

0	1
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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Mussolini's rise to power. (12 marks)

and

0	2
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Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the Fascist Party in Mussolini's consolidation of power by January 1926? (24 marks)

**EITHER**

**Question 2**

0	3
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Explain why the Corporate State was introduced in Italy. (12 marks)

and

0	4
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'In the years 1925 to 1939, Fascist economic policies were successful in improving living standards.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

**OR**

**Question 3**

0	5
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Explain why the Race Laws were introduced in Italy in 1938. (12 marks)

and

0	6
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'By 1943, Mussolini had created a totalitarian regime in Italy.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source A: M BLINKHORN, *Mussolini and Fascist Italy*, Routledge, 2006.

Question 1 Source B: M CLARK, *Mussolini: Profiles in Power*, Pearson Education Limited, 2005. © Pearson Education Limited 2005.

Question 1 Source C: C DUGGAN, *A Concise History of Italy*, Cambridge University Press, 1994.

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