

### EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers Russia under the old regime, the revolutionary period, new economic policy, pre-war Stalinism, World War II, post-war Stalinism, the Khrushchev years, the Brezhnev era, and reform and collapse under Gorbachev. (Formerly, Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union). The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

**Form Codes:** SQ471. SR471. SY474. SZ474

### CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

**Area or Course Equivalent:** History of the Soviet Union

**Level:** Lower-level baccalaureate

**Amount of Credit:** 3 Semester Hours

**Minimum Score:** 400

**Source:** [www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)

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### EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

#### I. Russia Under the Old Regime – 10%

- A. Governing Institutions
- B. Economics
- C. Culture and society
- D. Foreign Affairs
- E. Revolutionary movements

#### II. Russia in War and Revolutions, 1914-1928 - 12%

- A. The First World War
- B. February revolution
- C. Provisional Government/ Dual Power
- D. October revolution
- E. Civil war
- F. New Economic Policy (NEP)

#### III. Early Stalinism 1928-1939 - 13%

- A. Collectivization
- B. Industrialization
- C. The Great Purges
- D. Culture
- E. Nationalities

#### IV. The Second World War - 14%

- A. Prewar foreign relations
- B. The course of the war
- C. The impact and experience of the war
- D. Wartime Diplomacy and Conclusion of the War

**V. Postwar Stalinism - 11%**

- A. Reconstruction
- B. Origin of the Cold War
- C. Reconsolidation
- D. Foreign Relations

**VI. The Khrushchev Years - 12%**

- A. Succession struggle
- B. De-Stalinization
- C. Relations with U.S.
- D. Rift with China
- E. Arms race and Proxy wars

**VII. The Brezhnev Era - 12%**

- A. Reforms and "Stagnation"
- B. Ideological dissent
- C. Détente
- D. Proxy wars in the Third World
- E. War in Afghanistan

**VIII. Reform and Collapse Under Gorbachev - 16%**

- A. Foreign Policy and External Pressures
- C. Perestroika and glasnost
- D. Reemergence of the nationalities issue
- F. End of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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## REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, McCauley, Martin, 3rd edition, 2007. New York, NY: Longman.
2. A concise History of Russia, Bushkovitch, Paul. 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Cambridge University Press.
3. The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States, Suny, Ronald. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Oxford University Press.

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## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. What was the name of the lower house of the Russian parliament from 1906-1917?
  - a. Council of State
  - b. Council of the Federation
  - c. State Duma
  - d. Congress of People's Deputies
  
2. In his "April Theses" V.I. Lenin called for
  - a. support of the Russian war effort.
  - b. the overthrow of the provisional government.
  - c. cooperation with the Mensheviks.
  - d. peace with Germany.
  
3. The Kornilov Affair hastened the October/ November Revolution by
  - a. strengthening the power of the army.
  - b. discrediting the constituent assembly.
  - c. increasing the popularity of Prime Minister Kerensky.
  - d. enhancing the prestige of the Bolsheviks.
  
4. The purpose of Gosplan was to
  - a. coordinate secret surveillance of dissidents.
  - b. provide direction for economic development.
  - c. coordinate policies of the Orgburo and the Politburo.
  - d. train spies to infiltrate NATO.
  
5. During the 1920's Soviet foreign policy enjoyed its greatest success in relations with
  - a. China.
  - b. Germany.
  - c. Great Britain.
  - d. The United States.
  
6. Stalin's Industrial Five Year Plan of 1928
  - a. discouraged foreign investment.
  - b. continued the policy of Lenin's NEP.
  - c. built factories that produced heavy equipment.
  - d. made the Soviet Union competitive with the west

7. The Katyn Forest Massacre created hostility toward the Soviet government among
- Jews.
  - Finns.
  - Ukrainians.
  - Poles.
8. In which of the following countries did communism come to power after the Second World War without Soviet assistance?
- Yugoslavia
  - Poland
  - Hungary
  - Czechoslovakia
9. In June 1957, Khrushchev deftly outflanked Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Shepilov in the Central Committee of the CPSU; stigmatizing them as [the]
- Gang of Four.
  - Anti-Party Group.
  - Anti-Leninist Faction.
  - Neo-Stalinists.
10. The catalyst for the aborted coup of August 1991 was Gorbachev's attempt to
- dissolve collective farms.
  - remove from the constitution the article on the communist party's "leading role".
  - reconstruct the federal union.
  - dissolve the congress of people's deputies.

Answers to sample questions:

1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-D, 8-A, 9-B, 10-C