

**Stalin**

# Leadership Contest

5

**How important was Trotsky in Stalin's emergence as leader by 1928?  
Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

Trotsky failed to turn up to Lenin's funeral – so Stalin was seen as chief mourner; Stalin alienated him from the Party leadership; Trotsky was viewed as arrogant by many; permanent revolution was not popular with rightists; people were worried about his control of the Red Army; anti-Semitism, etc.

**No**

Stalin's political manoeuvrings between left and right; Lenin's death; Lenin's Testament; Socialism in one country was more popular; luck – Trotsky was recovering from a malaria-like illness at the time of Lenin's funeral; Stalin's use of his position as General Secretary to gain support at Party conferences and Congress, etc.

6

**How significant was the New Economic Policy (NEP) in allowing Stalin to gain control of the USSR by 1928? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

NEP was used by Stalin to play enemies from left and right against each other; unpopular with left who saw it as a betrayal of socialism; many communists saw it as too capitalistic and allowed growth in middle-class Nepmen; Socialism in One Country, etc.

**NO**

More significant – Trotsky's arrogance; luck; Lenin's death and funeral; Last Testament; political manoeuvrings; Stalin's position as General Secretary, etc.

6

**How significant were Stalin's ideas about Communism in the Soviet Union as a reason for his emergence as leader? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

Stalin cleverly placed himself in the centre between the left and right wing of the Communist Party after Lenin's death; Stalin favoured 'Socialism in one country' – combined Soviet nationalism with socialism; this put him at odds with Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution; many sided with Stalin's ideas to strengthen the USSR first before spreading the revolution worldwide; Stalin also favoured an end to the NEP, which was viewed as counter-revolutionary by left-wing members; Stalin favoured mass industrialisation, etc.

**No**

More significant – luck played its part; Lenin's will and testament criticised Stalin, but also other party members, and was never published in Russia; Stalin had used his position as General Secretary to appoint supporters lower down in the Party who would have a vote in the Party Congress which chose members of the Executive Committee who in turn chose members of the politburo (the leading organ of the Party); Stalin did not inform Trotsky of the correct date of Lenin's funeral; Trotsky arrogant and disliked by some members; they feared Trotsky's control of the Red Army; Trotsky failed to publicly denounce Stalin; Stalin took the opportunity to make himself appear humble and close to Lenin – he was the leading mourner at Lenin's funeral; Stalin sided with Kamenev and Zinoviev, then Bukharin to remove opponents, etc.

6

**How significant were splits amongst the leadership of the Communist Party in allowing Stalin to gain control of Russia? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Factions in the party since Lenin's implementation of NEP; caused infighting before and after Lenin's death; left-wing communists wanted to see a permanent revolution – e.g. Trotsky who opposed NEP; right wing wanted a more moderate approach to building socialism such as Kamenev and Zinoviev; Stalin manipulates both sides and manages to get key leaders expelled from the Party; unites left and right under Socialism in one country, etc.

**NO**

More significant – luck; Stalin was chief mourner at Lenin's funeral and Trotsky was given the wrong date and did not attend; Stalin part of ruling triumvirate and outmanoeuvered his colleagues; Stalin used his position as General Secretary to appoint supporters lower down in the Party; Lenin's Last Will and Testament was not read out to the public as it criticised Stalin and other Party members; Trotsky viewed as arrogant by other Party members; feared Trotsky's control of the Red Army, etc.

6

**How important was Lenin's death as a reason for Stalin's emergence as leader by 1928? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

1922 Lenin wrote his last will and testament criticising Stalin and Trotsky – never published as it was feared it would hurt their chances for power in the Party; Stalin informed Trotsky about Lenin's funeral but told him the wrong day; Stalin presented himself as Lenin's natural successor at the funeral by publishing pictures of them together and as the leading mourner at the funeral, etc.

**No**

Trotsky viewed as arrogant by many Party members, whereas Stalin presented himself as humble with a peasant background as opposed to an intellectual; Trotsky failed to criticise Stalin publicly and underestimated Stalin; policy more important factor – Stalin's 'Socialism in one country' more appealing than Trotsky's permanent revolution theory; Stalin used the arguments between the left and right wing factions of the Bolshevik Party and took the centre ground which allowed him to denounce both sides; arguments over NEP; Stalin's position as General Secretary allowed him to appoint supporters in the Communist Party, etc.

# Modernization

6

**How significant was Communist ideology as a reason for Stalin abandoning the New Economic Policy (NEP)? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

Stalin wanted to remove Kulaks as a class; they were seen as capitalist, and it led to collectivisation; Nepmen were created by the NEP; the Five Year Plan would create a state command economy, etc.

**No**

The need for defence; economic modernisation of the Soviet Union; the need to increase production of primary industries; Stalin's control of the USSR; the need to catch up with the West; Stalin's reputation / legacy, etc.

6

**How significant was industrialisation to the development of the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

The Five Year Plans were to build up infrastructure and catch up with the West within 10 years; primary and secondary industry were the focus of the first two Plans; they were needed for defence in any future war; a command economy using Gosplan was created, etc.

**No**

Collectivisation was more significant – socialism in the countryside; removal of the kulaks and Nepmen as a class; propaganda and cult of personality to develop a totalitarian state; control of education and the media, etc.

6

**How significant was the need to increase food production as a reason for Stalin's modernisation of Russia? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Stalin wanted to end food shortages and needed to feed industrial workers and Army efficiently and consistently; collectivisation used new farming methods and used modern machinery and techniques to increase production; Stalin needed surplus food to sell abroad to raise capital for investment in technology and expertise, etc.

**NO**

More significant – gave Stalin and the Communist Party control over production; allowed Stalin to remove the NEP and take a more communist direction; some saw it as vital to security – Five Year Plans needed for rapid industrialisation to compete with capitalist West and guard against future attacks; removed Kulaks as a class enemy, etc.

6

**How significant was defence as a reason for Stalin's economic policies, 1928–41? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Stalin saw threat of Germany and European fascism in 1930s; Soviet Union not ready for defence purposes; needed steel, oil and chemical production to increase massively; threat of capitalist West; Civil War saw US, France and British threats to USSR, etc.

**NO**

More significant – need for food production increase to pay for industrialisation; Stalin's personal accomplishment to establish dictatorship; dekulakisation; ending NEP; socialism in one country, etc.

6

**How important was national security as a reason for Stalin's economic policies? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Stalin saw threat from the capitalist west as very real since the Civil War and British, French and US involvement; heavy industry required for Soviet Army to modernise; Stalin saw rise of fascism in Europe as a threat to communism (Italy and Germany); economic power would mean Soviet power in the world to compete with dominant capitalist countries such as the USA; Stalin wanted to rely less on foreign specialists and investors, etc.

**NO**

Other factors more important – NEP viewed by many in the Communist Party as reactionary and counter-revolutionary; Marxist theory committed the USSR to creating an industrialised workers' state; Stalin wished to expose opponents to his 'socialism in one country' plans; removal of class enemies such as the Kulaks and Nepmen; central control of the economy had already been practised during the Civil War and War Communism, so not viewed as radical by many Communist Party members, etc.

**6 How significant was collectivisation in modernising the Soviet economy? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** Small farms merged into larger units; death knell to kulaks who owned land – Stalin saw the class as an enemy of the state; Kulaks victimised; meant peasants lost holdings; had to learn to use tractors, fertilisers and combine harvesters; Stalin needed workers in industry so more efficient farming would release workers for town and still produce more grain; impact on village life and society; grain sold abroad to finance purchase of foreign technology; by 1937 over 90% of land collectivised; mechanisation eventually led to increased grain production in 1937 etc.

**No** Some peasants refused to join collective farms – taken to labour camps or shot; peasants killed their animals or burnt crops rather than hand them over to the state; any underproduction was blamed on the peasants and produce taken nevertheless; grain production less in 1932 than it had been in 1928; famine in many areas, especially in the Ukraine; one and three quarter million tons of grain sold abroad while five million peasants died of starvation; some say Stalin welcomed famine as, together with ten million kulaks, it helped to break peasant resistance; so many animals killed that it took to 1953 to get back to 1928 production; candidates could well argue that it was the Five Year Plans and production of heavy goods that modernised the Soviet economy; expect answers that show the 'upside' of Stakhanovites and young volunteers and the 'downside' of fear and gulags; Socialism in One Country; fear of future war with Germany etc.

**6 How important was the use of fear in the achievement of Stalin's economic goals? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** 'Stick' – fear of punishment played a huge role in everyday life during Stalin's rule; Gulags became a means of free labour on huge projects like the building of Magnitogorsk and the Belomor Canal – deaths on site did not matter because of an almost inexhaustible supply of soviet peoples who needed punishment; punishments for not meeting targets would mean losing job and probably housing; if found guilty of sabotage then the Gulag or death would occur; factory discipline severe, punishment for lateness or absence; internal passports and secret police prevented changing jobs or regions; purges for whatever reasons; repression of minorities who were deemed to hold back industrialisation, e.g. Islam was repressed in central Asian republics; Stalin was willing to sacrifice the traditional soviet ways of life to achieve his goals, etc.

**No** 'Carrot' – some citizens were genuinely enthusiastic about industrial developments – volunteers, especially from the young, to help build Magnitogorsk, Moscow Underground, etc. Incentives and rewards for hard work; Stakhanovites, medals, holidays, housing; some saw industrialisation was vital to catch up with the West and ensure the USSR could survive invasion; Cult of the Personality had Stalin as an omniscient, avuncular figure who would only do what was in the interests of the USSR and its people; Five Year Plans; collectivisation, etc.

# Industrialization

6

**How significant were economic factors in the introduction of the Five-Year Plans? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

NEP had failed to modernise Russian economy quickly enough; the Plans were to set ambitious targets in heavy industries – coal, iron, oil and electricity; Stalin wished to rival the capitalist economies of the West such as the USA, Britain, France and Germany; Stalin wanted to end the imports of Western industrial equipment and make Russia self-sufficient; economic strength would also lead to greater support for communism and Stalin's leadership, etc.

**No**

More significant was the reason to increase Russia's military strength – threat from capitalist nations and Germany in mid-1930s; Russia needed a modern army; Stalin wanted to create a socialist society by increasing the number of workers in towns/cities; he wanted to demonstrate the successes of the Communist Party to the rest of the world; the Plans would help establish Stalin's reputation as the legitimate successor to Lenin; to improve food production by manufacturing new farming equipment like tractors, etc.

**6 How important was the need to defend communism in the Soviet Union as a reason for the Five-Year Plans? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** (Ideologically) In 1928, USSR economically backwards compared to many Western powers and smaller nations in Europe – capitalism seen as a superior economic system compared with socialism/communism; Stalin wished to demonstrate the successes and superiority of communism and ‘Socialism in one country’; Soviets were not invited to join the League of Nations (until 1934) and viewed as untrustworthy by capitalist nations; (Militarily) Stalin needed to build up armaments to defend USSR from possible attack from Nazi Germany post-1933 – new industrial areas built east of Moscow, etc.

**No** Stalin wished to become less dependent on Western industrial goods; heavy industry like iron and steel still only at pre-war levels; electrification still not completed to build modern factories; railways needed to be built to improve links between urban and rural areas; new industries were needed such as chemical and metallurgy; Five-Year Plans meant to improve agricultural output as well as industrial output to feed the towns, sell grain and prevent famines – tractors were needed to modernise farming methods; lack of modern machinery, especially in the countryside to increase grain production; surplus grain to be sold abroad to buy in machinery and specialists; Stalin wanted to move on from NEP, etc.

**6 How significant was the New Economic Policy as a reason for the introduction of Stalin's Five-Year Plans? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** NEP was only supposed to be a temporary return to capitalism after the excesses of War Communism during the Civil War; Stalin saw NEP as incompatible with socialist ideas; wanted to create socialism in one country; NEP had led to growth in the number of class enemies – kulaks and Nepmen; NEP had led to a split in the Party between left and right; NEP failing to modernise economy fast enough, etc.

**No** Stalin wanted personal control over the economy; part of the creation of a totalitarian state; Stalin wanted to modernise Russia's economy more rapidly to catch up with the West; to create a showpiece for communism in the world; prepare for future conflict with capitalist enemies; wished to achieve self-sufficiency and less dependent on Western manufactured goods; to establish Stalin's credentials as leader; to improve standards of living, etc.

# Collectivization

6

**How important was communist ideology as a reason for the collectivisation of agriculture? Explain your answer.**

**YES** Socialisation of land and peasantry part of early Marxist-Leninist ideology (April Theses); NEP had created kulaks and Nepmen which were class enemies of Communist Party – dekulakisation; Stalin wished to spread socialism to the countryside as well as in urban areas to bring peasants in line with Communist policies; needed to proletarianise the peasants to wipe out petty-bourgeoisie and small-scale capitalism; central control of agricultural production – command economy could dictate production levels; kolkhoz and sovkhoz, etc.

**NO** Economic factors more important to Stalin – Stalin needed agricultural improvements to fuel industrial improvements; large amounts of grain could be produced and exported to pay for the imports of technology and expertise to feed the towns and growing population; collectivisation allowed Stalin to control peasantry more effectively through targets, propaganda and terror; it allowed for the use of new machinery and technology/methods of farming to be shared (tractors, fertilisers, etc.), etc.

**6 How important was Stalin's wish to destroy the kulaks as a reason for collectivisation? Explain your answer.**

**YES** Kulaks were blamed for hoarding grain despite good harvests 1925–28; kulaks unwilling to accept state prices for grain – led to rationing of meat and bread; Stalin himself had been to the main grain producing areas to seize grain – production dropped and many hid supplies from the Communist Party officials; Stalin tired of the yearly struggle to get grain and blamed kulaks; kulaks viewed as a class enemy and counter-revolutionary; Stalin wished to bring socialism to the countryside and kulaks did not fit into this vision of society – 'dekulakisation'; Stalin said 'we have to liquidate the kulaks as a class', etc.

**NO** Agriculture was still very backward in the USSR – traditional methods still being used such as strip farming with wooden ploughs; land still in the hands of private farmers; Stalin wished to mechanise agriculture with new technology such as tractors and new methods using chemical fertilisers; collective farms (Kolkhoz) and state farms (Sovkhoz) would need fewer peasants to work them so more could be used in the cities as workers to help industrialise; easier for the state to get grain from collective farms than from individual peasant families; needed to increase production rapidly to feed growing industrial towns/cities and soldiers in case of future wars; wanted to sell excess grain abroad to help fund industrialisation of Five Year Plans, etc.

# Control

6

**How significant were Stalin's Purges in the creation of a totalitarian state in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – Purges launched in 1934 after murder of Kirov; allowed Stalin to remove opposition and potential threats at all levels of Soviet society and politics; purge of Old Bolsheviks such as Kamenev and Zinoviev; purge of lower party elements – 500 000 arrested and either executed or sent to gulags; purge of Soviet army – 25 000 officers removed; rest of society purged by NKVD who had lists drawn up by Stalin – estimated 18 million sent to labour camps and 10 million died; helped create a dictatorship and one-party rule, etc.

**NO** – More significant – use of NKVD as secret police; terror to keep obedience; torture and execution without trial; propaganda promoted Stalin worship and cult of personality; censorship; indoctrination of workers, soldiers, sailors and youth (Young Pioneers); school curriculum taught Stalin worship, cult of Lenin and Marxism-Leninism; 5 Year Plans increased Stalin's control over industry and the workforce – non-compliant workers accused of sabotage; collectivisation brought countryside under state control – dekulakisation and forced famine in 1932-33 – Stalin removed potential conservative opposition from peasantry; Russification and treatment of ethnic minorities; control of art and culture – socialist realism; repression of religion, etc.

6

**How significant was the removal of political rivals in allowing Stalin to create a totalitarian state? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Removal of political rivals on right and left of Party between 1924–28; Great Purges of the 1930s used to effectively remove opposition – Party, military and all levels of society targeted; 20% of Party members removed; show trials used to expose counter-revolutionaries – used as propaganda in cinemas; NKVD purged; NKVD also used as organ of state terror – 1.5 million victims; 500 000 shot and many sent to gulags; anti-Soviet elements in society such as artists, writers and musicians removed; dekulakisation removed class enemy, etc.

**NO**

More significant – propaganda and censorship of the press; Stalin created his 'cult of personality' using the arts, newspaper photos, renaming of places, etc.; Young Pioneers youth organisation loyal to Stalinist ideas; carrot and stick approaches – loyal workers and those that exceeded targets were rewarded; Five Year Plans organised society like never before; collectivisation helped control the peasantry, etc.

6

**How significant were the Five-Year Plans in helping Stalin increase his control of the Soviet Union? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – Stalin's Five-Year Plans helped him increase propaganda and control of the workers; harsh punishments for not meeting targets; Stakhanovites; women workers employed more and had improved access to crèches and day-care centres; some well trained workers had access to better pay and health care; for some, better accommodation; new cities built, etc.

**NO** – More significant –collectivisation allowed Stalin to crush the kulaks (dekulakisation); forced famine in 1932–33; Cult of Personality; propaganda and censorship; youth groups indoctrinated young people – Young Pioneers; use of terror – NKVD and gulags; purges of party, military and ordinary citizens; suppression of religion, etc.

5

**How significant was the use of the NKVD to Stalin's system of control? Explain your answer.**

**YES** NKVD main tool of Stalin to purge all elements of Russian society, government, military and Party; sparked off by murder (possibly on Stalin's orders) of Kirov; NKVD detained 1.5 million victims – many sent to gulags; nearly 700 000 executed (possibly 2x or 3x higher according to some historians); Party were purged of officials in 1937; left-wing opponents like Trotsky murdered by NKVD agents; right-wing opponents like Bukharin arrested; 3/5 Red Army Marshals were arrested, 14/16 army commanders and 37 000 soldiers shot by NKVD – all admirals in navy removed; NKVD arrested and executed class enemies such as kulaks and Nepmen, etc.

**NO** NKVD themselves were purged 1938–39 (the purgers themselves were purged); former head of NKVD, Yagoda, shot in 1938; early stages of purges in 1932–35 expulsion from Party more common – 20% of Party expelled as undesirables; show trials used for old Bolsheviks – often filmed with confessions; other factors more important – use of gulags; cult of personality; propaganda and censorship; control of education system, arts and sciences; one-party system, etc.

**6 How important was propaganda in allowing Stalin to control the USSR? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** State controlled propaganda allowed Stalin to create a 'cult of personality'; huge propaganda campaign in the 1930s and '40s via posters, films, radio, books and newspapers to push government view; writers and artists censored heavily; 'socialist realism' in art and culture glorified Soviet man and the revolutions; 1932 rigid education programme introduced that rewrote much of Russian history to suit Stalin; Stalin doctored photos, paintings and pictures so children knew little about historical enemies of Stalin such as Trotsky; political youth groups spread propaganda – Octobrists and Pioneers; posters, parades and media praised Stalin as 'god-like' and the heir of Lenin, etc.

**No** Stalin's USSR a totalitarian police state – all aspects of people's lives monitored; use of OGPU then NKVD to purge opposition; use of labour camps; show trials from 1936–38; Great Purges begin with murder of Kirov in 1934 – ordinary people, party members, army, NKVD all branded bourgeois and counter-revolutionary by Stalin; Zinoviev and Kamenev executed; 90 out of 139 Central Committee shot; 5 out of 11 Politburo of 1934 dead; arrests of many Soviet people were without trial; informers used by secret police; attacks on Russian Orthodox Church increased in 1930 – religious pictures burnt and churches smashed; bishops and priests arrested; Stalin stamped his personal ideology on USSR through collectivisation and Five Year Plans; some improvements in life of workers and peasants in collectives such as access to healthcare and child care; USSR survived WWII due to Stalin's forced industrialisation, etc.

**6 How important were the purges of the 1930s to Stalin's control of the USSR? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** First sign of purges came in 1928 when Stalin accused engineers in the Donbass mining district of sabotage and in 1931 former Mensheviks were put on trial; main purges came after death of Kirov in Leningrad, 1934; Stalin probably had him killed and used his death to purge the Party of Stalin's opponents; Show Trials – Kamenev and Zinoviev, and then Bukharin in 1938 – all confessed to being traitors; about 500 000 charged with anti-Soviet activities, sent to gulags or shot; Trotsky assassinated in 1940; army was purged of 25 000 officers – impact when Hitler invaded; teachers, engineers, managers and workers all disappeared – usually at night; torture and threats to family; 18 million sent to camps by the end of 1937, 10 million died; Stalin's paranoia – purged anyone who might be a threat to him or his will; stopped independent thinking; almost every family had at least one member arrested; fear breeds control etc.

**No** There were other methods of control: 'Cult of Personality' made him appear omniscient – overseer of the country's welfare; photos, pictures, statues, street and town names; propaganda and control of all forms of art, literature and music; youth brainwashed in Young Pioneers; education – history re-written; the new constitution of 1936 was supposed to give free elections and freedom of speech but only Party members could stand and the press was controlled; religious worship was banned – people encouraged to worship Stalin instead; some were very enthusiastic for Stalin and communism –volunteers for major projects; rewards for hard work – Stakhanovites etc.

# Establish Dictatorship

**6 How important to the establishment of Stalin's rule was his Cult of Personality? Explain your answer.**

**Yes** Created propaganda to make Stalin and his government popular; he was the creation of this and was 'the dictator of the people'; history was re-written to make Lenin and Stalin the only heroes of the revolution; education was organised to prevent independent thought and to make people believe in Stalin; Young Pioneers; Stalin was seen to be omniscient, omnipresent, avuncular, firm, decisive, successful; art and literature controlled; Soviet people deluged with portraits, photos, statues of Stalin; roads, streets, squares, towns named after Stalin; poets, playwrights and musicians wrote works praising Stalin and to please him (Shostakovich wrote an opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* – praised at first by critics but disliked by Stalin so the composer was condemned); music monitored by NKVD; demonstrations, rallies and marches in favour of Stalin etc.

**No** Stalin had other systems to enforce his rule (carrot and stick approach); fear – punishments, imprisonment, gulags, show trials, death; encouragements – rewards of medals, health care, housing, holidays, Stakhanovites; Some genuinely eager to support communism and Stalin – volunteers for major projects like Magnitogorsk, Moscow Underground; new constitution in 1936 to give free elections and free speech to the Soviet people but only communist candidates allowed and all publications were censored; failed to suppress Orthodox Church and allowed it during the war to maintain morale; Socialism in One Country; collectivisation and Five Year Plans; defeat of rivals in the CPSU e.g. Trotsky, Kamenev, Bukharin etc.

# **Stalin's Rule**

6

**How significant was collectivisation in Stalin's rule over the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – Collectivisation of agriculture introduced as part of first Five Year Plan; the aim was to bring socialism to the countryside; Stalin wanted to eradicate private farming and update methods on Kolkhoz and Sovkhoz; dekulakisation; need to feed growing towns for Five Year Plan; feeding the Red Army during war; selling grain overseas to fund Five Year Plan technologies and expertise etc.

**NO** – More significant – industrial development - 3 Five Year Plans that focused on heavy industry, then chemicals and secondary industries and finally mechanisation of agriculture, consumer goods and war supplies/munitions; creation of cult of personality – statues, street names, city names (Leningrad and Stalingrad), propaganda and censorship to promote Stalin worship; removal of opposition – Great Purge after murder of Kirov in 1934 – show trials, use of NKVD and gulags; removed his opposition from Communist Party (old Bolsheviks), Red Army and general population and finished with a purge of the NKVD; Russification and treatment of ethnic minorities; role of women; youth – Young Pioneers and indoctrination at schools; nomenklatura were new Party elite; repression of religion, art and culture – socialist realism etc.

6

**How significant were policies towards ethnic minorities as an aspect of Stalin? Explain your answer.**

**YES** Stalin had been Commissar of Nationalities under Lenin; Stalin was Georgian and aware of the different nationalities that made up the Empire; Stalin discouraged different national identities as he saw it as a barrier to the development of the USSR; promoted Soviet nationalism and Socialism in One Country; used Russification to force a Soviet identity on all nationalities; Russian language became compulsory in all schools; 1.5 million ethnic minorities deported back to Asia – many removed from positions of power; some anti-Semitic measures were reintroduced etc.

**NO** More significant – economic modernisation; Five-Year Plans used to increase industrial production to catch up with the West, build up military for defence; collectivisation used to socialise the countryside; remove kulaks as a class; purges of the 1930s to remove political enemies of Stalin; propaganda and Cult of Personality etc.

# Changed Life

6

**How significant were the Five-Year Plans in changing life in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – First Five Year Plan focused on heavy industrial production to catch up with West; led to doubling of output in some areas and further electrification; led to a massive decrease in unemployment and increased employment opportunities for women; factory propaganda; factory discipline was harsh; incentives for workers; managers given targets that were sometimes unrealistic; sabotage accusations for non-compliant workers and managers; crèches and kindergartens installed in some factories for childcare; Second Five Year Plan increased heavy and light industrial production and Third Five Year Plan focused on consumer goods and agricultural machinery – tractors were sent to collective farms to improve yields; Stakhanovite movement; better salaries, housing and healthcare for those that exceeded targets; slave labour from gulags; turned USSR into second largest industrialised nation; increased munitions in preparation for war with West/Germany, etc.

**NO** – More significant – Collectivisation (though this could be mentioned as an aspect of First Five Year Plan in YES factor); forced collective farms and state farms – 90% collectivised by end of 1930s; increased yields and an end to food shortages in cities; initial collectivisation led to riots and uprisings in the countryside; NKVD used to arrest and execute counter-revolutionaries; socialism forced on rural areas – liquidation of kulaks as class enemy; propaganda and censorship; Marxist indoctrination of young people in Young Pioneers and schools; art and culture – socialist realism; suppression of religion and ethnic minorities; Russification; Cult of Personality of Lenin and Stalin, etc.

6

**How significant were policies towards women amongst the social changes in Stalin's Russia after 1928? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – Women were given equal opportunities in education, employment and access to the Communist Party; many women occupied junior positions in the Communist Party and wielded some political power; by 1935 – 42% of industrial workers were women; hugely important to the success of the Second and Third Five Year Plans and militarisation increased; many women trained as skilled workers and gained management positions in industry and in collective farms – driving and repairing tractors, setting targets; creches and kindergartens allowed women to work; divorce made easier at first and abortion on demand; divorced fathers had to pay maintenance for their children etc.

**NO** – Women had many rights removed later in Stalin's rule; 1936 Family Law made divorce more difficult; women still kept many traditional roles, especially in the countryside and often had lower pay than men; women did not occupy senior positions in the Communist Party or government; more significant – Stalin's policies towards religion – only one in forty churches still held services due to atheism as official policy; persecution of other religions such as Islam and Judaism – only 1300 mosques in USSR by 1939; music and arts heavily monitored and censored – socialist realism in art and sculpture; education controlled by state and youth groups indoctrinated by Marxism – Young Pioneers; homosexuality made illegal; new nomenklatura became elite in Soviet society; managers and supervisors got access to better housing and other benefits; nationalities forced to 'Russify'; allow collectivisation and dekulakisation – led to famine etc.

6

**How significant was collectivisation in changing life in the Soviet Union under Stalin? Explain your answer.**

**YES** – Collectivisation ended the limited capitalism permitted in the New Economic Policy; NEPmen and kulaks targeted by Stalin as class enemies and counterrevolutionaries; dekulakisation – policy of liquidising the kulak class in the countryside; peasant resistance – some peasant families burnt their crops and slaughtered their animals; massive propaganda campaign in the countryside; peasants were denounced and deported to gulags; Kolkhoz and Sovkhoz was established, banning most private landholdings; 1932–33 massive famine – possibly 13 million starved to death; by 1941 most land had been collectivised; new machinery and tractor stations established; improved farming techniques (e.g. fertilisers) etc.

**NO** – More significant – rapid industrialisation under the Five-Year Plans; massive growth in towns and cities including new “single-industry” cities like Magnitogorsk built; new dams and steelworks further to the east; forced labour from the gulags used; better pay and conditions for some workers; women’s employment and training opportunities increased; harsher discipline in the factories – loss of pay or deportation for ‘sabotage’; ‘Stakhanovite’ propaganda in mines; target setting became stricter; terror campaign from NKVD (secret police); Great Purge targeted Old Bolsheviks, the Red Army and political opponents; propaganda and censorship led to Stalin’s Cult of Personality developing; attack on religious practices of Christians and Muslims etc.