



Fact Sheet

RISE & FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The passing score for each examination is determined by the school based on recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). This minimum credit-awarding score is equal to the mean score of students in the norming sample who received a grade of C in the course. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution where they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT

The following topics, which are commonly taught in courses on this subject, are covered by this examination.

	Approximate Percent
I. Russia Under the Old Regime	12%
A. Governing Institutions	
B. Economics	
C. Culture and Society	
D. The Empire	
E. Revolutionary movements	
II. The Revolutionary Period 1914-1921	14%
A. The First World War	
B. February/March Revolution	
C. Interim	
D. Bolshevik Revolution	
E. Civil War	

	Approximate Percent
III. New Economic Policy (NEP)	10%
A. Economics	
B. Struggle for power	
C. Foreign relations	
D. Cultural experimentation	
IV. Prewar Stalinism	12%
A. Collectivization	
B. Industrialization	
C. Reign of terror	
D. Cultural regimentation	
E. Nationalities	
V. The Second World War	11%
A. Prewar foreign relations	
B. The war	
VI. Postwar Stalinism	7%
A. Domestic affairs	
B. Foreign affairs	
VII. The Khrushchev Years	7%
A. Succession struggle	
B. De-Stalinization	
C. Foreign affairs	
VIII. The Brezhnev Era	8%
A. Growth and stagnation	
B. Political scene: stability, corruption, dissent	
IX. Reform and Collapse	14%
A. Perestroika and glasnos	
B. Reemergence of the nationalities issue	
C. Retreat from Eastern Europe	
D. End of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of the abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 95% of the examination)
- Understanding of concepts and principles (about 5% of the examination)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. The name of the lower house of the Russian parliament from 1906-1917 was
 - (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 did which of the following?
 - (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
 - (A) Jews
 - (B) Finns
 - (C) Ukrainians
 - (D) Poles
8. In which of the following countries did communism come to power after the Second World War without Soviet assistance?
 - (A) Yugoslavia
 - (B) Poland
 - (C) Hungary
 - (D) Czechoslovakia
9. In June 1957, Khrushchev deftly outflanked Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Shepilov in the Central Committee of the CPSU; stigmatizing them as the
 - (A) Gang of Four
 - (B) Anti-Party Group
 - (C) Anti-Leninist Faction
 - (D) Neo-Stalinists

10. Which of the following was **NOT** a major economic trend of the Era of Stagnation?
- (A) Growth in the quantity of production
 - (B) Success in “showcase industries” such as aerospace
 - (C) Widespread shortages of consumer goods
 - (D) Penetration of world markets by cheap Soviet exports
11. The nationality of the Soviet foreign minister during most of the Gorbachev era was
- (A) Russian
 - (B) Ukrainian
 - (C) Georgian
 - (D) Armenian
12. The catalyst for the aborted coup of August 1991 was Gorbachev’s attempt to
- (A) dissolve collective farms
 - (B) remove from the constitution the article on the Communist Party’s “leading role”
 - (C) reconstruct the federal union
 - (D) dissolve the Congress of People’s Deputies

STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following 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** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

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

Gilbert, Martin. *Soviet History Atlas*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., current edition.

Hosking, Geoffrey. *The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, current edition.

Kort, Michael. *The Soviet Colossus: History and Aftermath*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, current edition.

McCauley, Martin. *The Soviet Union 1917-1991*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.

Nove, Alec. *An Economic History of the USSR 1917-1991*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, current edition.

Thompson, John M. *A Vision Unfulfilled: Russia and the Soviet Union in the Twentieth Century*. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Company, current edition.

Treadgold, Donald W. *Twentieth-Century Russia*. San Francisco, CA: Westview Press, current edition.

Current textbook used by a local college or university for a course on the subject.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST examination development process. ACE has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course	
Equivalent:	Rise & Fall of the Soviet Union
Level:	Upper-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit:	Three (3) semester hours
Source:	ACE Commission on Educational Credit And Credentials

INFORMATION

Colleges and universities that would like additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DSST Program, Prometric, 2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Correct Responses: 1.C; 2.B; 3.D; 4.B; 5.B; 6.C; 7.D; 8.A; 9.B; 10.D; 11.C; 12.C

Rev. 20071116 - I.N. D204315