

## A Level European History Knowledge

### Organiser: Part 2 Section 6. The Great Patriotic War and Stalin's dictatorship 1941 - 1953 ( AQA paper 2 Option N)

<u>Sub-topics</u>	
a	<b>The impact of the war on the Soviet Union:</b> Operation Barbarossa and the Stalinist reaction; the course of the war; the USSR under occupation and the fight-back; the Soviet economy; mobilisation and evacuation of industry; foreign aid
b	<b>The defeat of the Germans:</b> reasons and results; post-war reconstruction; industry and agriculture
c	<b>High Stalinism:</b> dictatorship and totalitarianism; renewed Terror; the NKVD under Beria; Zhdanov's and the cultural purge; Stalin's cult of personality; the Leningrad affair; purges and the Doctors' Plot
d	<b>The transformation of the Soviet Union's international position:</b> the emergence of a 'superpower'; the formation of a soviet bloc; conflict with USA and the capitalist West; death of Stalin and Stalin's legacy at home and

### Possible homework tasks A level Style Questions

Use AQA History Revolution and Dictatorship by Chris Rowe and Sally Waller .

The exam is 2 and a 1/2 hours

**Question 1 is always worth 30 marks .** You will be assessed on your ability to evaluate 3 sources . Use content, knowledge, provenance and tone. ( 1 hour)

For example

- Practice Question p 180
- Practice question p 196
- Practice question 211.

**You have to answer 2 further essay questions (** from a choice of 3) worth 25 marks . You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each essay

e.g. To what extent does Stalin deserve the title 'Great War hero for his leadership of the USSR between 1941 and 1945?'

- To what extent did Stalin lead a totalitarian regime in the years 1945 - 1953?
- The USSR was far from being a superpower in 1953 assess the validity of this view.

### Wider Reading/Viewing

- Russia's War by Richard Overy.
- The Siege by Helen Dunmore.
- The Betrayal also by Helen Dunmore
- The Road to Berlin by John Erickson
- Russian Article on the Student shared area. No 14. Command Economy beats the Germans.
- Stalin The Court of the Red Tsar by Simon Sebag Montefiore.
- Animal farm by George Orwell.
- Stalin by Robert Service
- Stalin's place in History Russian Articles no 15 ( Pupil Shared area)

#### **Watch**

- [https://youtu.be/5\\_pQLI9Vo58](https://youtu.be/5_pQLI9Vo58) ( Generalissimo Thames TV 1992 ) 1 hour 29 minutes.
- Red Star ( Episode 17 of World at War)
- <https://youtu.be/E2zrqzvtWio> (Hitler v Stalin War leaders 50 minutes

<b>Key Terms / Profiles</b>	Add to this yourself when you come across a key term or individual in this unit.
<b>Stavka</b>	The top level military command of the USSR in the Great Patriotic War ; the name originated in tsarist times, but Stavka was formed under Stalin on 23rd June 1941. It comprised of Generals such as Timoshenko and Zhukov as well as key politicians like Molotov and Voroshilov.
<b>Sergei Prokofiev</b>	A young composer who left Russia in 1918 to live in the U.S. he returned to the USSR in 1935 . From 1946 he was a target for Zhdanov's cultural purge , along with Shostakovich and Khatchachurian. Many of Prokofiev's works were banned from performance. In 1948, his wife Lina was arrested for espionage ;she was not released until 1953 after Stalin's death , Prokofiev was partly rehabilitated after 1949 but never regained his position. he died in 1953 on the same day as Stalin.