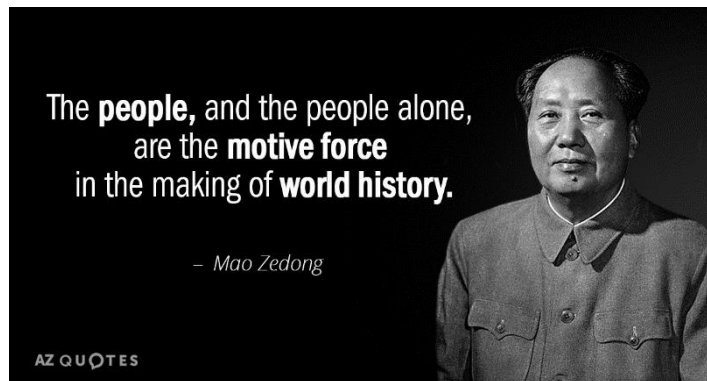


HAUTLIEU SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT A Level Induction task

History (Route E: Communism States in the Twentieth Century)

Capitalism or Communism? You decide!

Overview: Both our year of the A Level two countries that Communist Marxist ideas. experiment began in If your parents are old they remember about



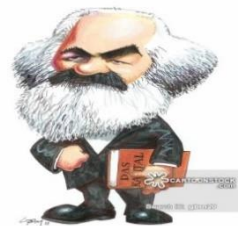
exam modules in the first course will be looking at attempted to set up governments based on Russia's (the USSR) 1917 and ended in 1991! enough, ask them what the USSR! For China, their

communist experiment started in 1949 and still continues to this day! A number of compromises have had to be made along the way to retain the one-party state in modern day China. In practice, it seems that Marx's ideas have been diluted and modified. We'll explore this in greater depth as part of our A Level course.

Induction Task

Instructions: OVERALL: Produce a 1,500 word, analytical, written response

- Your answer should show evidence of precise research and critical thinking.
- You must list at the end of your piece any websites and books you've used.
- Your response should be split into the three parts shown below.
- Your work will be run through a plagiarism / AI checker, so no AI slop!



PART 1: An analytical biography on Karl Marx

Who was Karl Marx and why did his ideas become an attractive alternative to capitalism? (Aim for at least 500 words, use the bullet points to guide you)

- His background and who he was influenced by (eg. Friederich Engels)
- Explain why he became critical of capitalism in the first place. Think about the Industrial Revolution - the problems and the hardship it caused and the gaps in wealth it created between the very rich and the poor.
- What did Marx offer as a solution to the problems caused by capitalism? Discuss his idea of socialism and communism as a better alternative to capitalism. Are there any flaws/weaknesses to his argument? Give your opinion and back it up with evidence.
- How did he see this becoming a reality? Which particular countries did he think would be suitable?

PART 2: Case Studies: Russia and China

Why did countries like Russia in 1917 and China in 1949 attempt to establish a new regime based on Marxist ideas? How successful were they in staying true to Marxist ideas in your opinion? (Aim for at least 500 words, use the bullet points to guide you)

- Explain why the conditions in each country (eg. war, lack of confidence in the existing governments) made Marxist ideas more attractive.

- Identify the key leaders and their parties who successfully took power. (Russia - Lenin & the Bolsheviks and China - Mao & the Chinese Communist Party CCP).
- Explain whether either of these countries was ready to put into place a Marxist state. If not, why not? Draw upon examples from each country. *For example, Russian capitalism hadn't developed fully, would Marx have therefore said the conditions in Russia were not right to launch a Communist Revolution?*
- In order to hold onto power, did Lenin and Mao find themselves having to adapt Marxist ideas and even go back on or sacrifice some of their original aims? *For example, neither Lenin nor Mao ever stepped down from their role as leader, is that how Marx saw Communism developing long term? Or was this an adaptation?*

PART 3: Judgement

Do you think it is fair to call these countries Marxist Communist states? If not, why not? (Aim for at least 500 words)

- Ensure that you consider arguments that suggest **it is** fair to consider either Russia or China (or both) Communist countries using specific factual examples to support your argument.
- Conversely, you should also consider arguments that suggest **it is NOT** fair consider them Communist countries using specific factual examples to support.
- Reach a final judgement prioritising which side of the argument you think is stronger and explain why, pointing out any weakness in the other side of the argument.

Deadline: Hand in on paper, stapled and with your name clearly written **by Wednesday 9th September to Mr O'Kane.**

Recommended research to start you off

Try and find your own sources too from reputable websites and books from respected historians. A Level will require you to adopt an investigative approach. (Please quote any direct reference, **avoid cutting and pasting**)

GCSE Level material to give you a basic overview to help your understanding and get the foundations in place.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/marx_karl.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/mao_zedong.shtml

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/china-1900-to-1976/mao-zedong/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/lenin_vladimir.shtml

A Level standard reading material (non-negotiable – you must use ALL of this!)

<http://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/marx/context.html> (Karl Marx)

<http://spartacus-educational.com/RUSlenin.htm>

<http://spartacus-educational.com/COLDmao.htm>

Stretch material

<http://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/viewpoint/why-marx-still-matters-ideological-drivers-chinese-politics>