

Past-paper walk-through

Social Effects of Industrialization ■ 6.4

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 1 Q1

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2025 Set 1 ■ Q1

It is presented here in a format optimized for teacher and student use in the classroom.

3 “After the [Russian] revolution of 1917, the Bolshevik regime became the first government in history to declare that women’s emancipation was one of its primary goals and to write it into law. Legislation ensuring equal pay for equal work was instantly [passed], and women’s right (if not their obligation) to work became central to Soviet notions of citizenship. Yet, after the first fifteen years of Soviet rule, it was evident that the Leninist ideal of freeing women...was still a distant utopia. In retrospect it was also evident that the Soviet Union’s commitment to women’s equal employment has never been purely ideological and has been based rather on pragmatic, demographic factors: rapid economic growth, labor shortages, and a frequent shortage of males. In the past decade [the 1980s], the average female worker, although she was slightly better educated than her male counterpart, earned only two-thirds as much as

Question 1

the average male.... Some forty percent of Soviet working women are employed in unskilled manual labor or low- skilled industrial work. The higher professions are equally unbalanced. About three-quarters of the schoolteachers but only about a third of the school principals are women. Some seventy percent of the doctors are women, but more than half the hospital administrators are men and [they] are in charge of formulating local health policy. The inequality is even more striking among engineers and skilled technical workers." Source: Francine du Plessix Gray, French-American journalist, *Soviet Women: Walking the Tightrope*, 1990

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- (a)** Describe the main argument made by the author in the excerpt.
- (b)** Describe one piece of evidence used by the author in the excerpt to support her argument.

Question 1

(c) Explain how one historical development in the second half of the 1900s likely influenced the author's perspective.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- Describe the main argument made by the author in the excerpt. (1 point) — accept any: Women's right and even obligation to work was one of the central notions of Soviet civic culture.; Soviet commitment to women's equality was based on pragmatic rather than ideological factors, including labor shortages due to rapid economic growth.; Despite the Soviet Union's stated commitment to equality, Soviet women did not often hold high positions and earned less than males in the same jobs.

Solution 1

(b)

Mark scheme

- Describe one piece of evidence used by the author in the excerpt to support her argument. (1 point) — accept any: In the 1980s the average female worker was better educated than a male but earned only two-thirds as much as the average male.; Forty percent of women in the workforce worked in unskilled or low-skilled jobs.; While most doctors in the USSR were women, more than half of the hospital administrators were men.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain how one historical development in the second half of the 1900s likely influenced the author's perspective. (1 point) — accept any: Gorbachev's policy of glasnost made information about the Soviet Union more available to Western researchers because it opened up communications and access to the West that had been restricted before.; Feminist movements in the second half of the 1900s focused on achieving social equality for women which led to the development of new research on the status of women in Europe.; Women attained high political office in many Western countries but not in the Soviet Union which seemed to undermine Soviet claims to equality.