

# Grade 9 Answer

## Reason for Differences

4/4  
Marks

### Question:

**Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the Cult of Stalin. You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer.**

**(4 marks)**

### Answer:

The interpretations are different because they put different weight to difference sources. For example, Source B, which depicts the Cult of Stalin to be successful and shows Stalin as a great leader, provides some support for Interpretation 2 which argues that the Cult of Stalin indoctrinated citizens support for Stalin and the soviets. Whereas Source C, which shows evidence that the Cult of Stalin was not successful and some citizens were very critical of Stalin, provides some support for Interpretation 1, which emphasises the fact that many artists refused to follow the Cult of Stalin, and some would rather die than glorify Stalin.

### Feedback:

**This answer would get 4/4 marks because the pupil has identified a reason for difference in the interpretations, explaining this reason with analysis.**

## Source B

**Source B: A propaganda poster from 1952 of Joseph Stalin. The text reads: 'Forward to the victory of communism!'**



## Source C

**Source C: A poem written in 1933 by Osip Mandelstam, a Russian poet, which resulted in Mandelstam being sent to a NKVD labour camp where he died.**

**We live, deaf to the land beneath us,  
Ten steps away no one hears our speeches,  
All we hear is the Kremlin mountaineer,  
The murderer and peasant-slayer.  
His fingers are fat as grubs  
And the words, final as lead weights, fall  
from his lips,  
His cockroach whiskers leer  
And his boot tops gleam.  
Around him a rabble of thin-necked leaders -  
fawning half-men for him to play with.  
The whinny, purr or whine  
As he prates and points a finger,  
One by one forging his laws, to be flung  
Like horseshoes at the head, to the eye or the  
groin.  
And every killing is a treat  
For the broad-chested Ossete.**

# Interpretation 1

**Interpretation 1: C N Trueman "Life in USSR under Stalin" published on [historylearningsite.co.uk](http://historylearningsite.co.uk) in 2015**

**Stalin developed what became known as a "personality cult". Artists painted pictures glorifying Stalin and he dominated many pictures. It was not unusual for Stalin to be in a white suit so that he stood out from the crowd. He gained the nickname "Uncle Joe" which was an attempt to develop an image of a kind, homely man who was the 'father' of all Russians. This was all called "Social Realism". Those who wrote poems and novels had to do the same – write about Stalin in a manner which gloried him. Some artists and authors were so depressed by all this that they committed suicide rather than do what the state ordered them to do. Many others tried to leave the country.**

## Interpretation 2

**Interpretation 2: An article written by Julia Kenny for 'The York Historian' published in 2018.**

**The image of Stalin had penetrated society and bound all the people to his constant presence, regardless of their education or background. The cult was always visually forced upon them. Even during the famines, it was said that there was “no bread on the table but Stalin on the wall.” At Stalin’s funeral the crowds were such that many were crushed to death. Stalinist propaganda served well in masking the darker side of the regime, and in bending the truth. For most people, it was not until years after the regime that they realised its flaws.**