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**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND CLASSICS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY

DEGREE OF MA WITH HONOURS
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RUSSIA SINCE 1985: A "TRANSITION" ECONOMY?
(Economic History/Economic & Social History 3/4MA)

Chairman of the Board of Examiners: Dr Stana Nenadic
External Examiner: Dr Theo Balderston

**You MUST answer QUESTION 1 and ONE other question
chosen from questions 2-10**

1. Examine the usefulness of the concept of a “transition economy” for analysing the changes, which have taken place in the Russian economy during the years 1990-2005?
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2. Why did the Soviet economy collapse in 1990-1?
 3. Examine the reasons for and consequences of the events of “Black Tuesday” (11 October 1994)
 4. Explain why Russian industrial enterprises made an the increased use of “barter arrangements” between 1994-1998 and why the utilisation of such contractual forms has declined since that time.
 5. Examine the validity of the present Russian government’s criticisms of the “Loans for Shares” deals made during the second and third “privatizations” of the mid-1990s.
 6. Examine the reasons for and nature of western direct investment in Russia, 1994-1998
 7. “The astonishing flexibility of the “economic population” of small-holders made them the only group within the agricultural sector of the Russian economy capable of positively responding to the acute monetary disorders of 1993-4 and 1997-8.” Comment
 8. How far is it true to say that the Putin’s “Agrarian Reform Programme” of 2000-1 had more to do with government fiscal policy than with the reform of Russian agricultural enterprises?
 9. Why and how does Putin hope to introduce a thirteen-per-cent rate of direct taxation?
 10. Explain the reasons for and explore the likely consequences of Putin’s actions in relation to the Oil Company “Yukos”.