

A-level HISTORY

Component 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Wednesday 6 June 2018 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1H.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Visitors to the Russian empire before the First World War returned with similar accounts. Critics and admirers reported that the regime in St Petersburg had an undiminished capacity for oppression. Russian society, in their estimation, was changeless. Peasantry and workers were 'dark masses'. The universal level of their living conditions, low for centuries, had recently been forced down further by heavy direct taxation. Modernisation remained slight. The Russian imperial state was uniformly reactionary. It acted exclusively in its own interests and was unresponsive to pressure by any social class. The possibility that the discontent might turn into political opposition was the government's nightmare in the late nineteenth century. Yet repression did not work well enough for the government. After 1905 the monarchy's power was shrinking. 'Autocratic Russia' was no longer run autocratically. The base of support became gravely narrow and events abroad superimposed themselves on St Petersburg's political disarray. Once the fateful entry into the war had been undertaken, the point of political explosion moved nearer.

Adapted from Robert Service, *The Russian Revolution*, 2nd edition 1991

Extract B

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, social and economic change undermined the traditional power base of the autocracy. While the influence of the government's traditional supporters amongst the nobility declined, that of newer groups, such as the intelligentsia and the merchantry, increased. Despite concessions in 1905, the tsarist government was soon firmly back in charge, but long-term survival required great political skill and flexibility and Nicholas' government lacked both qualities. Nicholas himself was blind to the problems facing his government and rejected all thought of concessions. The decade from 1907 to 1917 offered the tsarist government a last chance to avoid revolution; but by February 1917 Nicholas had alienated the only groups in the empire who might have been able to rescue him. In doing so, he had prevented the emergence of a stable bourgeois government. His failures as a politician help explain why, when the revolution finally came in 1917, it swept away not only the autocratic government, but the whole traditional ruling group in Russia.

Adapted from David Christian, *Imperial and Soviet Russia*, 1986

Extract C

The upheavals of 1905–06 transformed Russia from an absolutist to a constitutional monarchy. The political changes of 1905–06 did not amount to a ‘false constitutionalism’. There occurred, after 1907, a process of stabilisation, as the gulf between government and society, prominent in the 19th century, was finally being bridged. The powers of the Tsar were restricted. The civil freedoms enshrined in the Fundamental Laws marked a definite advance. The very existence of a state Duma created the possibility of a fundamental shift by non-revolutionary means. But war strained the structures of constitutional monarchy to breaking point. Rising economic and political disaffection ran so deep in the cities by the start of 1917, that any sudden interruption to food supplies threatened to trigger an uncontrollable explosion of mass discontent. However, if the impact of the Great War is discounted, there was evidence of progress. The monarchy was in no immediate danger at home in the summer of 1914.

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Adapted from R B McKean, *Between the Revolutions: Russia 1905–1917*, 1998

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to tsarist political authority in Russia before 1917.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** How significant was the emancipation of the serfs in 1861 to Russia's economic growth in the years up to 1894? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** To what extent were the lives of women and young people changed as a result of Communist rule in the years 1917 to 1941? **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** 'Opposition from within the Communist Party posed a greater threat to Soviet leaders than that from opponents and cultural dissidents outside it.'
- Assess the validity of this view of the years 1941 to 1964. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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