

AS HISTORY

Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682–1796
Component 1E Peter the Great and Russia, 1682–1725

Wednesday 18 May 2016 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/1E.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Peter tried to reconcile the need for a war economy with the need for national prosperity. He wanted to create both new sources of taxes and new sources of production, to increase exports and reduce imports, to crush the people under taxes and simultaneously stimulate their initiative. Miraculously he succeeded. He concluded a trade treaty with Persia, encouraged commerce, protected forests, developed farming and above all, thanks to him, Russian industry expanded with incredible speed. Peter exempted the founders of manufacturing enterprises from state service and from taxes. They formed a new aristocracy that derived its rights from invested money and the spirit of initiative.

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Adapted from Henri Troyat, *Peter the Great*, 1988**Extract B**

The jury is still out on the question of whether Peter accelerated or slowed the development of capitalism in Russia. On the face of it, he produced success stories – the number of factories grew to almost 200 by his death. He did not accumulate a foreign debt. Russia was self-sufficient in some areas of arms and textile manufacture. The acquisition of ports should have fostered wealth-creating trade. However, private enterprise remained weak, little capital was accumulated, much trade was in the hands of foreigners and towns were underdeveloped. There was no ‘great leap forward’. It boiled down to making the most of Russia’s ‘backwardness’ by applying absolute power to extract service, labour and taxes from all parts of the population.

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Adapted from Lindsey Hughes, *Peter the Great: a biography*, 2002

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of Russian economic growth in the years 1701 to 1725?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'The most important impact of westernisation by 1707 was on the Russian nobility.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'Peter the Great's foreign policy after 1707 had made Russia a European power by 1725.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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