

AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Component 1H Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

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 7041/1H.
- 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 A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

On 9 January 1905, a revolutionary emergency occurred when a peaceful procession of demonstrators was fired upon in St Petersburg. This produced strikes and marches across the Russian Empire. Poland and Georgia became ungovernable. In Russia, there was revulsion against the Emperor among factory workers. The illegal SD and SR parties, who had long sought the overthrow of the Romanov dynasty, appeared on the scene and the Petrograd Soviet led the workers in an armed rising. Everywhere, the autocracy was under siege. Only the fact that Nicholas II could continue to rely on regiments that had not been sent to the Far East saved him his throne. The frustrations of past decades exploded and Nicholas was lucky to survive.

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Adapted from Robert Service, *Russia, 1997*

Extract B

The 1905 revolution was the creation of the masses: a social grouping that no one had ever bothered about. Unsettled by a decade of industrialisation, unorganised by the various revolutionary movements, not understood by the authorities, the masses had long been ignored. However, in 1905, they indulged in an anarchic 'free-for-all', which only in retrospect acquired the title of 'revolution'. Both peasants and workers wanted concessions, not revolution; a better, not a different government. There was no formal programme of political action. What the 'revolution' was about was, above all, a lack of understanding of the masses by Russia's leaders. The significance of the 1905 revolution lies in its demonstration of government weakness rather than the power and potential of organised revolution in Russia.

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Adapted from J P Nettl, *The Soviet Achievement, 1967*

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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 the reasons for the weakening of Tsarist authority in Russia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0 2 'Russian society was transformed during the reigns of Alexander II and Alexander III.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'The growing influence of Marxism from the 1890s to 1917 was due to Lenin.'

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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