

A-level HISTORY

Component 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Tuesday 21 May 2019 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 A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

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Adapted from M Sixsmith, Russia, 2011

Extract B

Alexander II was an autocrat and an honest conservative, forced by the overwhelming logic of facts to put in the forefront of his programme, the liberation of the serfs. In emancipating the serfs he destroyed the whole foundation of the administrative system and, as a matter of practical necessity, he could not avoid the task of reconstructing this. Alexander II was certainly no liberal and he and his government continued the task of reform with failing energy. His murder had the effect of a railway collision; reform no longer seemed possible; repression, the one hope of salvation for the autocracy. Alexander III might have published the Loris-Melikov scheme as his father's last legacy, but for the opposition of Pobedonostsev, the prophet of a programme of reaction. The new Tsar was, by mind and education, extremely limited in outlook. An autocracy relies on will-power in the sovereign and, once persuaded, Alexander III determined to strengthen autocratic rule.

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Adapted from B Pares, A History of Russia, 1962

Extract C

Alexander III and his supporters viewed his liberal father's reign as a 'time of troubles' and Alexander III's own task as that of restoring autocratic power following it.

Ivan Aksakov, one of the chief ideologists supporting Alexander III's counter-reforms, argued that Alexander II's reforms had torn apart the historical unity of the Russian state, bringing dissatisfaction and disorder. In 1886, the government prohibited any public celebration of the 25th anniversary of the freeing of the serfs. Many of those closest to Alexander III shared the belief of the slavophile, Aksakov, that the killing of Alexander II was the logical extreme expression of the Westernisation that had undermined both tsarist autocracy and society. Alexander III's style of rule was totally different. He emphasised autocratic strength and displayed impatience with any bureaucratic procedures or laws that might inhibit it. He often by-passed the advice of the State Council and believed that autocracy was the only form of government for Russia.

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Adapted from W Moss, History of Russia since 1855, 2005

- 0 1** Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to attitudes to autocracy during the reigns of the Tsars Alexander II and Alexander III.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 How significant was the growth of towns, in the years 1894 to 1914, in changing Russian society?
[25 marks]

0 3 'The transformation of Russian industry, in the years 1917 to 1941, was achieved through the application of socialist/Marxist principles.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'The years 1941 to 1964 were a time of political stagnation in the USSR.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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