

## A-level HISTORY

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

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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 7042/1E.
- 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.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

Elizabeth remains notorious for her fashion addiction and social tyranny, and suffers from the comparison with her brilliant successor but one, Catherine the Great. Yet she restored Russian pride and imperial authority and clarified the succession. She enjoyed many lovers but none of them became overmighty, and all were surprisingly popular. She chose well in her ministers Trubetskoi and Bestuzhev. Yet the cost of her armies, palaces and dresses fell heavily on the millions of serfs, the source of all wealth. Hundreds of thousands fled while thousands rose up in armed rebellions that had to be crushed. As she eased her father's system of compulsory service for nobles, who increasingly avoided serving for life, she intensified their control over their serfs. The serfs, as mere chattels, could now be sold and bought, and their masters could exile them to Siberia for 'insolence' without any state permission. Altogether, the 'Elizabethan Age' of this spoilt but intelligent and well-meaning empress was a frivolous sequel to the rule of her father.

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Adapted from Simon Sebag Montefiore, *The Romanovs 1613–1918*, 2016**Extract B**

Elizabeth's ideological platform was a very simple one: seeing the unbearable suffering of the Russian people under the rule of odious foreign favourites, she, Peter the Great's daughter, would rise up against them and happiness would dawn once more. Having seized power, Elizabeth assumed that her task would be simple enough: she had only to see to it that all regulations issued by Peter the Great were precisely followed. But early in her reign it became clear Elizabeth had neither the strength nor the competence to cope with the heavy workload of complex decisions. She had never been trained to perform state duties, and she had no desire whatsoever to engage in the hard and exhausting work of a statesman. No doubt she might have had some good motives too, a desire to demonstrate her 'motherly kindness' to the people, but she did not know how to go about this. Also she had so little time, with all the dresses to try on, and performances and festivities to attend.

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Adapted from Evgenii V Anisimov, *Five Empresses*, 2004

**Extract C**

Elizabeth has gone down in history as perhaps the laziest and most extravagant of sovereigns. The verdict is grossly exaggerated. The aims which Elizabeth had set herself on her accession were not ambitious, but they enabled her to give Russia eleven years of peace and twenty without a palace revolution. The laws for which she was responsible were less harsh than those of her predecessors. The improvements which she carried out, though limited in range, were introduced without fuss and her major legislative measures often provided a basis for those which Catherine II was to introduce. Thus it was Elizabeth who started the series of social and economic benefits which Catherine II gave to the nobility; it was Elizabeth who made the first attempt to deprive the central administration of some of its powers and transfer them to the country gentry; it was Elizabeth who first tried to revise the legal code. These improvements invariably required great effort and determination, and other sovereigns might have been satisfied with less.

Adapted from Tamara Talbot Rice, *Elizabeth, Empress of Russia*, 1970

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the reign of Elizabeth, Empress of Russia.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'Peter the Great's response to the Streltsy revolt of 1698 was the key factor in the consolidation of his power in the years 1682 to 1703.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 3** How successful was Peter the Great in fulfilling the aims of his foreign policy?

[25 marks]

**0 4** 'The reforming ideas set out in Catherine the Great's Instruction to the Great Commission in 1766 had not been achieved by 1789.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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