



A-level HISTORY

Component 2N Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Friday 6 June 2025 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 7042/2N.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a report to the Tsar's government written by the Okhrana, the Tsarist secret police, October 1916.

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Source A argues that it was restrictions on the liberties of the working classes which have caused greater hostility to the government.

Source B

From a speech to the Duma by Pavel Milyukov, November 1916. Milyukov was a leader of the 'Progressive Bloc' in the Duma, which wanted a constitutional monarchy.

The Tsar's Government has neither the knowledge nor the ability which are necessary at this moment of war, and now the gulf between the Duma and the Government has grown wider and impassable. Today we see and understand that with this Government we cannot lead Russia to victory. The Duma keeps insisting that the country must be organised for a successful war effort. However, the Tsarist regime persists in claiming that organising the country would lead to revolution and, therefore, it deliberately allows chaos and disorganisation. Is this stupidity or treason? You may ask, "How can we, the Duma, start a confrontation while the war is on?" But, gentlemen, the Tsar's Government is a menace to the war effort, and it is precisely for this reason that we are now confronting them. And, therefore, gentlemen, for the sake of the millions of victims and the torrents of blood poured out, for the sake of our national interests, we shall fight on until we achieve that genuine responsibility of government.

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Source C

From the memoirs of Sir George Buchanan, 1923. Buchanan was the British Ambassador to Russia from 1910 to 1917.

Nicholas II loved his country. He had its welfare and greatness at heart. Yet it was he who was to cause the catastrophe, which has brought Russia to utter ruin and misery. The Emperor's marriage with Princess Alexandra of Hesse was an unfortunate one. She was a good woman, determined to help her husband's interests, but she was to prove the instrument of his ruin. The shy and indecisive Emperor was bound to fall under the influence of a will stronger than his. Nicholas had not inherited his father's commanding personality, nor the strong character and prompt decision making, which are so essential to an autocratic ruler. The burden of his inheritance grew heavier as his reign progressed. Russia was a vast Empire in which the Church was rapidly losing its hold on the people owing to the scandalous appointments made through Rasputin's influence. Nearly every branch of the administration was as incompetent as it was corrupt; and then, on the top of all this, a world war!

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the collapse of Nicholas II's political authority.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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How far was the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War due to Trotsky's leadership of the Red Army?

[25 marks]

0	3
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'In the years 1929 to 1939, Stalin's policy of collectivisation had a positive impact on the Soviet economy.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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'Propaganda was more important than terror in strengthening the Stalinist dictatorship in the years 1945 to 1953.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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