



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Level in History (WHI01)
Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations
Option 1B: Russia in Revolution, 1881-1917

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Generic Level Descriptors for Paper 1

Targets: AO1 (10 marks): Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

AO3 (15 marks): Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, difference ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-6	• Simple or generalised statements are made about the view presented in the question. • Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the issue in the question. • Judgement on the view is assertive, with little supporting evidence.
2	7-12	• Some understanding of the issue raised by the question is shown and analysis is attempted by describing some points that are relevant. • Mostly accurate knowledge is included, but it lacks range or depth and only has implicit links to issues relevant to the question. • A judgement on the view is given, but with limited support and the criteria for judgement are left implicit.
3	13-18	• Understanding and some analysis of the issue raised by the question is shown by selecting and explaining some key points of view that are relevant. • Knowledge is included to demonstrate some understanding of the issues raised by the question, but material lacks range or depth • Attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement on the view and to relate the overall judgement to them, although with weak substantiation.
4	19-25	• Key issues relevant to the question are explored by analysing and explaining the issues of interpretation raised by the claim. • Sufficient knowledge is deployed to demonstrate understanding of the issues raised by the question and to meet most of its demands. • Valid criteria by which the view can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement. Although some of the evaluations may only be partly substantiated, the overall judgement is supported.

Question	Indicative content
1	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years 1881-1903, the reigns of Alexander III and Nicholas II were mainly repressive. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • All police were centralised under the control of the Minister of the Interior and special courts dealt with serious political offences • Elected Justices of the Peace were abolished; 'Land Captains' now had total control • The introduction of measures to curtail the activities of revolutionary groups, e.g. the role of the Okhrana • There were widespread attacks on Jewish settlements and repression of nationalities within the empire. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Introduction of 'Land Captains' could be seen as reforming and a measure of increased local government • Under both Alexander III and Nicholas II economic growth was encouraged, e.g. use of western investment, expansion of the railways • In 1886, the Poll Tax, paid only by peasants, was abolished and assisted in improving rural life • The Peasants' Bank was created to help peasants buy land from landlords • Peasant representation in the <i>zemstva</i> continued albeit at a reduced level. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
2	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether the main reason for the 1905 Revolution in Russia was Bloody Sunday The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The 9 January large demonstration, organised by Father Gapon, presented a list of grievances asking for radical reform, which were ignored, and this triggered the revolution • The overreaction by the guards at the Winter Palace, who used weapons against a peaceful protest, led immediately to the term 'Bloody Sunday' and triggered further protests across the country • The events of Bloody Sunday damaged the prestige of the royal family and particularly the mystique of the Tsar as the Father of the Nation, which fuelled demands for significant political change. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Russian imperial fleet had been humiliated in the straits of Tsushima (May 1905) and this reflected badly on the Tsar and his leadership and the government's popularity, leading to further demands for change • The shock of defeat in the Russo-Japanese War revealed the utter incompetence and inefficiency of the Tsarist regime and led many to demand change • Peasant dissatisfaction with rural life was already there before 1905 and the war only served to highlight this dissatisfaction further • The glaring contrast between the opulence of the ruling classes and the conditions endured by the urban working class was becoming more evident, and this was exploited by revolutionary groups • Criticism of Tsarist rule and leadership by revolutionary groups stirred up opinion against the Tsar and this drove the demand for revolutionary change. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
3	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether, in the years 1914-16, the main consequence for Russia of its involvement in the First World War was economic chaos. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The First World War led to inflation, rising prices destroyed the buying power of wages, and the Tsar's government resorted to printing more money, which further added to inflation • The First World War led to food shortages, despite good harvests, there was little incentive for peasants to sell their produce, so they hoarded grain and fed it to their animals • The First World War led to the army commandeering large numbers of goods trains and this further affected the transportation of goods, which meant that food shortages in cities became even greater • The First World War led to significant losses of men and horses, which damaged agricultural production • The First World War led to fuel shortages as these supplies were used in the production of war essentials, major cities had shortages of coal and other fuels, which led to the closing of bakeries. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Failure on the war front led to the Tsar taking personal military control; this proved to be politically disastrous as with every defeat and set back his leadership came under question • The war led to the formation of the 'Progressive Bloc' within the Duma, who agreed a programme that was supported by the War Industries Committee. However, the Tsar suspended the Duma • The Tsar's decision to leave the Empress in political charge proved disastrous, as she relied heavily on Rasputin, both were not trusted, and Rasputin was murdered in December 1916 • Failure in war and political chaos at home gave revolutionary groups an opportunity to encourage peasants and workers to protest for change and fuelled their anti-Romanov propaganda. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
4	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether the main problem facing the Provisional Government in 1917 was the issue of dual power. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Duma Committee asked for the Petrograd Soviet's approval before the new government was announced and this undermined the Provisional Government's authority • Soviet Order Number One challenged the government's authority as it showed that Petrograd was controlled by the Soviet, not the government • Soviets and committees sprang up throughout the country, which showed no respect for the authority of any other governing body. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Provisional Government faced the problem of the war, e.g. they promised the Allies that it would continue to support them and the war, and fight for a decisive victory, which led to protest • The Provisional Government faced the problem of discontent caused by its decision to delay elections to the Constituent Assembly, the failure to address the land question and to deal with continuing economic chaos • The Provisional Government failed to limit the activities of workers' committees and this encouraged discontent and protest • The Provisional Government faced the problem posed by the Bolshevik threat, e.g. the impact of the April Theses, Lenin's growing popularity, the arming of the Bolsheviks in the Kornilov Affair • The Provisional Government faced demands for self-government from many of Russia's nationalities. Granting self-government to Ukraine and Finland in 1917 encouraged others to demand the same. Other relevant material must be credited.

