

## Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

# History

**Paper 3: Modern depth study**

**Option 30: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41**

Specimen assessment materials for first teaching  
September 2016

**Sources/Interpretations Booklet**

Paper Reference

**1HI0/30**

**Do not return this booklet with the question paper.**

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**Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.**

**Source B:** From *Memoirs of a Revolutionary* by Victor Serge, published in 1951, describing the White attack on Petrograd in October 1919. Serge was a journalist who joined the Bolshevik Party in January 1919.

A possible defeat for the Bolsheviks at Petrograd was transformed into a complete victory on 21 October at the Battle of Pulkovo Heights, a few miles south of the city. The White troops led by General Yudenich were forced into a hasty retreat. They fled in complete disorder towards the border with Estonia where their progress was blocked by Estonian soldiers and 300 workers. The White army that had failed to capture Petrograd had been destroyed. In the following month, the Whites suffered a further defeat at Orel where the army of General Denikin was defeated by the Bolshevik Red Army, led by Trotsky.

**Source C:** From an interview in 1919 with a Bolshevik official in charge of the road and railway system. The interview was given to a British writer who spent six weeks in Russia at that time.

Most of our energy at present has been spent on mending and making railways and roads for the use of the army. Over 11,000 kilometres of railway and 12,000 kilometres of roads are under construction. As a matter of fact, the internal railway system, which we control, is by no means as bad as people make out. We have been able to use the railways to defeat the Whites, transporting our best troops, now here, now there, wherever they are most needed.

**Interpretation 1:** From *The Russian Civil War* by E Mawdsley, published in 1987.

Success in the Civil War was due to the strengths of the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks had had a year to consolidate their position. They controlled most of the military resources of Tsarist Russia as well as the railways. They also had more popular support and their forces outnumbered those of the Whites by ten to one. Therefore, from the winter of 1918–19, the White leaders such as Admiral Kolchak faced a struggle against great odds.

**Interpretation 2:** From *Reaction and Revolutions: Russia 1881–1924* by M Lynch, published in 1992.

The reasons for the final victory of the Bolsheviks in the Civil War are not difficult to understand. The victory was due to the weaknesses of the Whites. The various White armies fought as separate groups. The only aim they had in common was to overthrow the Bolsheviks. They were unwilling to sacrifice their individual interests in order to form a united anti-Bolshevik front. This allowed the Red Army to pick off the White armies one by one. The Whites were too scattered geographically to be able to put sufficient pressure on the Bolsheviks.

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