

AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Component 1H Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Wednesday 17 May 2017 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/1H.
- Answer **two** questions.
 - In **Section A** answer Question 01.
 - In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Extract A

The Russian economy was still undeniably backward by c1890. By 1914, in the fast-moving, competitive environment this was no longer the case. Russia was on the threshold of becoming a major industrial power, moving into self-sustainable economic growth. The tsarist regime was on the right track before the First World War. Tsarist agrarian reform was ultimately effective in this period. Witte's industrialisation policies began an irreversible process in that his approach was successfully continued by the tsarist regime after 1908, as soon as Russia had recovered from the worldwide slump of 1900–04, defeat by the Japanese in 1904–05 and the revolution of 1905. Witte accompanied his industrialisation with some forward-looking social policies.

5

 Adapted from J Bromley, *Russia 1848–1917*, 2002
Extract B

It cannot be denied that the modernisation of both industry and agriculture before the First World War still had a long, long way to go. Villages by the thousands slumbered on, unacquainted with new techniques of production. Change was geographically patchy. The economy was also prone to the menace of ever fiercer foreign competitiveness. Russian industry faced dilemmas. The appearance of sustained recovery after the 1905 recession is misleading. Germany, Britain and France were at a more advanced stage of industrialisation. Many Russian firms, not awarded government contracts, found the going hard. The higher rate of increase in the USA and Germany meant that the gap in productivity was widening. The poverty of nearly all workers and most peasants remained.

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 Adapted from R Service, *The Russian Revolution 1900–1927*, 2009

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the development of Russia in the years c1890 to 1914?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'Alexander II's reforms were motivated by his determination to preserve his autocracy in the years 1855 to 1881.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'The policies of Alexander III, in the years 1881 to 1894, greatly weakened the Russian Empire.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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