



# **A-level HISTORY**

**Component 1H Tsarist and Communist  
Russia, 1855–1964**

**7042/1H**

**Wednesday 6 June 2018    Afternoon**

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 16-page answer book.**

**[Turn over]**

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7042/1H.**
- **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.**

**DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD  
TO DO SO**

**SECTION A****Answer Question 01.****EXTRACT A**

**Visitors to the Russian empire before the First World War returned with similar accounts. Critics and admirers reported that the regime in St Petersburg had an undiminished capacity for oppression. Russian society, in their estimation, was changeless. Peasantry and workers were 'dark masses'. The universal level of their living conditions, low for centuries, had recently been forced down further by heavy direct taxation. Modernisation remained slight. The Russian imperial state was uniformly reactionary. It acted exclusively in its own interests and was unresponsive to pressure by any social class. The possibility that the discontent might turn into**

**5**  
**10**  
**15**

political opposition was the 20  
government's nightmare in the late  
nineteenth century. Yet repression  
did not work well enough for the  
government. After 1905 the  
monarchy's power was shrinking. 25  
'Autocratic Russia' was no longer  
run autocratically. The base of  
support became gravely narrow and  
events abroad superimposed  
themselves on St Petersburg's 30  
political disarray. Once the fateful  
entry into the war had been  
undertaken, the point of political  
explosion moved nearer.

**Adapted from Robert Service,  
The Russian Revolution, 2nd edition 1991**

**[Turn over]**

**EXTRACT B**

**In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, social and economic change undermined the traditional power base of the autocracy. While the influence of the government's traditional supporters amongst the nobility declined, that of newer groups, such as the intelligentsia and the merchantry, increased. Despite concessions in 1905, the tsarist government was soon firmly back in charge, but long-term survival required great political skill and flexibility and Nicholas' government lacked both qualities. Nicholas himself was blind to the problems facing his government and rejected all thought of concessions. The decade from 1907 to 1917 offered the tsarist government a last chance to avoid revolution; but by February 1917 Nicholas had**

alienated the only groups in the empire who might have been able to rescue him. In doing so, he had prevented the emergence of a stable bourgeois government. His failures as a politician help explain why, when the revolution finally came in 1917, it swept away not only the autocratic government, but the whole traditional ruling group in Russia.

**Adapted from David Christian, Imperial and Soviet Russia, 1986**

**[Turn over]**

**EXTRACT C**

**The upheavals of 1905–06 transformed Russia from an absolutist to a constitutional monarchy. The political changes of 1905–06 did not amount to a ‘false constitutionalism’. There occurred, after 1907, a process of stabilisation, as the gulf between government and society, prominent in the 19th century, was finally being bridged. The powers of the Tsar were restricted. The civil freedoms enshrined in the Fundamental Laws marked a definite advance. The very existence of a state Duma created the possibility of a fundamental shift by non-revolutionary means. But war strained the structures of constitutional monarchy to breaking point. Rising economic and political disaffection ran so deep in the cities by the start of 1917, that any sudden**

**5**  
**10**  
**15**  
**20**



**interruption to food supplies  
threatened to trigger an  
uncontrollable explosion of mass      25  
discontent. However, if the impact of  
the Great War is discounted, there  
was evidence of progress. The  
monarchy was in no immediate  
danger at home in the summer of      30  
1914.**

**Adapted from R B McKean, *Between the  
Revolutions: Russia 1905–1917*, 1998**

**0 1 Using your understanding of the  
historical context, assess how  
convincing the arguments in  
these three extracts are in  
relation to tsarist political  
authority in Russia before 1917.  
[30 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**SECTION B**

**Answer TWO questions.**

**0 2** How significant was the emancipation of the serfs in 1861 to Russia's economic growth in the years up to 1894? [25 marks]

**0 3** To what extent were the lives of women and young people changed as a result of Communist rule in the years 1917 to 1941? [25 marks]

**0 4**

**‘Opposition from within the Communist Party posed a greater threat to Soviet leaders than that from opponents and cultural dissidents outside it.’**

**Assess the validity of this view of the years 1941 to 1964. [25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

# There are no questions printed on this page

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