



Cambridge Pre-U

HISTORY

9769/58

Paper 5h Special Subject: Russia in Revolution, 1905–1924

May/June 2022

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **4** pages.

The 1905 Revolution

Question 1

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

A *Lenin gives his view of Bloody Sunday in a lecture of 1917.*

The government wanted an opportunity to repress the workers. The demonstration, so they reckoned, would be made up of the most peaceful, least organised, workers. It would be child's play for the soldiers to handle them, and the proletariat would be taught a wholesome lesson; an excellent excuse would be furnished for shooting down anybody and everybody in the streets; the harshest repressions would follow. Bloody Sunday showed the death agony of the age-old faith in 'Our Father the Tsar', and the birth of a revolutionary people, the urban proletariat. Even the European bourgeois newspapers then said that Russia had changed. After that bloody day, Father Georgi Gapon wrote, in a letter read at a meeting of liberals, 'We no longer have a tsar'.

Lenin, *The Revolution of 1905*, published in 1917.

B *The US ambassador to Russia sends a report of the events of Bloody Sunday to the State Department.*

The police authorities exhibited criminal weakness in dealing with Father Gapon, the Chief of Police going so far as to accompany him to the Ministry of the Interior to help in securing an audience for him with the Tsar.

Having failed to do this, both the Chief of Police, as well as the Minister of the Interior, allowed a dangerous crisis under the cunning leadership of Father Gapon to develop. Nothing was left but to call out the troops. Whether the situation could have been kept in hand without firing on the crowd is a matter on which opinions differ, even on the part of eyewitnesses, but I have heard the assembled crowd accused of nothing worse than jeering at the troops. I do know that the commanding officer of the infantry twice warned them to disperse, adding that if they did not, he would be compelled to fire on them. This I have been told by a personal friend of the officer, to whom he deplored the tragedy in which he was compelled to play a part. The events of Sunday 22 January weakened, if it did not shatter, that unswerving loyalty and deep-seated reverence which has characterised the subjects of the Tsar.

Robert S. McCormick, *Diplomatic report to US Government*, 1905.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B about the 1905 Revolution. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents. [10]

The October Revolution

Question 2

Study all the following documents C, D, E and F and answer the question which follows.

- C** *The minister of war in the Provisional Government until May 1917, when he was replaced by Kerensky, gives his view of the dangers facing Russia.*

Unfortunately the first feeling of radiant joy evoked by the revolution has given place to one of pain and anxiety. The Provisional Government explained the cause of this in its recent declaration, which stated that the destruction of the old forms of public life, to which an end had been put by the revolution, had been brought about more rapidly than had the creation of new forms to replace them. The duality of power and the consequent anarchy now prevailing in the country make its normal existence difficult. Our poor country is facing an unparalleled war and internal troubles such as we never have seen before. We received a terrible legacy from the old regime; we hoped our military powers would recover and that a new patriotic discipline would weld the army together, but that has not been the case. It is not too late to cure it, but not a moment must be lost, for our motherland is on the edge of an abyss.

Alexander Guchkov, Speech, May 1917.

- D** *Stalin gives an account of the October Revolution in an article in Pravda.*

The most important of the events which hastened the October uprising were: the intention of the Provisional Government to surrender Petrograd; the Kerensky Government's preparations to move to Moscow; the decision of the command of the old army to dispatch the entire Petrograd garrison to the front and leave the capital undefended. All this, coupled with the growing economic disruption and the unwillingness of the men at the front to continue the war, made a swift and efficiently organised uprising inevitable as the only way out of the existing situation. That same day (24 October) the entire garrison, all the major regiments in Petrograd, decisively went over to the Revolutionary Military Committee. The Provisional Government showed signs of indecision. Only in the evening did it dispatch some troops to occupy the bridges and succeeded in raising some of them. The Revolutionary Military Committee countered this and occupied the bridges themselves. With this, the open uprising began.

Joseph Stalin, *The October Revolution*, November 1918.

E *Lenin urges the Bolshevik Central Committee to act to overthrow the Provisional Government.*

The situation is utterly critical: putting off the insurrection is equivalent to its death. With all my strength I wish to convince my comrades that now everything is hanging by a hair, that on the agenda now are questions that are decided not by conferences, not by congresses (not even congresses of soviets), but exclusively by populations, by the masses, by the struggle of armed masses. This very night, the government must be arrested. History will not forgive revolutionaries for delay, when they can win today but risk losing a great deal tomorrow, risk losing everything.

Lenin, Letter, 24 October 1917.

F *Trotsky gives an account of his role in the October Revolution.*

The Provisional Government was still in session in the Winter Palace, but it had already become a mere shadow of its former self. It had ceased to exist politically. The Winter Palace was gradually surrounded from all sides by our troops. The bourgeois press had shrieked so much about the coming revolt, the march of armed soldiers in the streets, the pillage, and the inevitable rivers of blood, that it did not perceive the insurrection which, in reality, was now taking place. All this time, quietly, without any street fighting, without firing or bloodshed, one government institution after another was being seized by highly disciplined detachments of soldiers, sailors, and Red Guards, in accordance with the exact telephone instructions issued from my little room on the third floor of the Smolny Institute.

Leon Trotsky, *The History of the Russian Revolution to Brest-Litovsk*, 1918.

How convincing is the evidence provided in this set of documents for the view that the October Revolution was mainly brought about by the skill of the Bolsheviks? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in the set (C–F). [30]

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