
A-level HISTORY

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Paper 2N

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **2N**.
- 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 two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Adapted from Lenin's 'Theses for Peace', published in the official Communist newspaper 'Pravda' in February 1918.

1. The condition of the Russian Revolution at the present moment is such that practically all the workers and a large majority of the peasants are on the side of the Soviet Government and the social revolution. In that respect the success of the Socialist Revolution in Russia seems assured.
2. At the same time the civil war which was caused by the furious resistance of the propertied classes has not reached its highest point. In the end the Soviet Government will win the fight, but it will take much time and a good deal of energy, and a certain period of disorganisation and chaos incidental to every war and especially civil war is inevitable before the bourgeoisie is finally crushed.
3. Furthermore, the resistance of the bourgeoisie in its less active and non-military forms such as sabotage, bribing tramps and other hirelings of the bourgeoisie to join the Socialist ranks with the purpose of undermining their cause, has proved to be so obstinate and capable of assuming such varying forms that it will take time, several months perhaps, to put it down.

Source B

Adapted from Bessie Beatty's book, *The Red Heart of Russia*, written in 1918. Beatty was an American journalist who lived in Russia at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution. She later defended the Bolsheviks in front of a US Senate Committee in 1921.

...Yakov Peters [One of the founders of the Cheka] told me that one day he was riding on a street car, when the man sitting beside him engaged him in conversation. He offered to sell him twelve hundred bags of flour at two hundred and fifty roubles each, six thousand pounds of sugar, and some butter. Peters got him to write down his name and address and within the hour, he had been arrested and his supplies had been seized.

Despite all efforts to unearth the offenders, a few men waxed hideously rich upon the hunger of the many. All provocation notwithstanding, the guillotine remained simply a name. Wherever the death penalty was inflicted, it was done by mobs having no official sanction, by mobs aroused to an uncontrolled fury, and momentarily conscious of no other passion than that of reprisal. Considering the unsettled condition of government, such instances of violence were not so frequent as to change the character of the Revolution into that of a Reign of Terror.

Source C

Adapted from *Kronstadt Izvestia*, the main publication of the Kronstadt rebels, March 1921.

Our country is enduring a difficult moment. Hunger, cold and economic ruin have held us in an iron vice these three years already. The Communist Party, which rules the country, has become separated from the masses and shown itself unable to lead her from her state of general ruin. It has not faced the reality of the disturbances which in recent times have occurred in Petrograd and Moscow. This unrest shows clearly enough that the party has lost the faith of the working masses. Neither has it recognised the demands presented by the workers. It considers them plots of the counterrevolution. It is deeply mistaken.

This unrest, these demands, are the voice of the people in its entirety, of all labourers. All workers, sailors and soldiers see clearly at the present moment that only through common effort, by the common will of the labourers, is it possible to give the country bread, wood and coal, to dress the barefoot and naked, and to lead the Republic out of this dead end.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Bolshevik Revolution between 1917 and 1921.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions.

0 2 How successful was the Communist regime in modernising Russian agriculture in the years 1928 to 1941? **[25 marks]**

0 3 ‘Stalin’s victory in the power struggle between 1922 and 1929 was due to the popularity of his policies.’
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

0 4 ‘By 1953 the USSR had become a world power.’
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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Source B: The Red Heart of Russia © Bessie Beatty

Source C: © Marxists Internet Archive

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