



**A-level**

**HISTORY**

**Component 1H**

**Tsarist and Communist Russia,  
1855–1964**

**7042/1H**

**Thursday 23 May 2024**

**Morning**

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**

**MATERIALS**

**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:**
  - **1 hour on Question 01 from SECTION A**
  - **45 minutes on each of the TWO questions answered from SECTION B.**

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

## SECTION A

### Answer Question 01.

#### EXTRACT A

In its early years, the new Communist state brought relative social freedom. The revolution was liberating, furthering the personal freedom of the individual. After 1929, however, everything changed. Individuality disappeared and the 'good times under Lenin' were remembered nostalgically, especially by the embittered peasants in the countryside who were being forced into the new collective farms. Those living in towns also suffered at the hands of the state. Housing was in desperately short supply and not high on the order of official

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**priorities. Hours of work were long  
and discipline stringent. Almost all  
women worked and the state  
assumed responsibilities for their 20  
children. When the working day was  
over, the political obligations  
started: meetings of factory groups,  
trade unions and other party  
activities. Informal social life 25  
virtually disappeared. People lived  
with the fear of the secret  
police. The class enemy, they were  
told, was lurking everywhere.  
Surveillance of neighbours was 30  
deemed a social duty and Russians  
learnt to maintain their distance and  
be careful about what they said.**

**Adapted from J P Nettl, The Soviet  
Achievement, 1967**

**[Turn over]**

**EXTRACT B**

**The Communist state brought some impressive social changes. In the 1920s, there was an attack on ‘bourgeois’ attitudes everywhere, from within the state to the family. 5**

**‘The League of the Godless’ launched a full-blooded assault on the Orthodox Church, so-called comrades’ courts took over criminal cases, educational opportunities 10**

**expanded and barriers between white-collar and manual labour were broken down. In the early 1930s, some of the more extreme social experimentation was curbed, which 15**

**helped make life more settled, but society continued to progress. Industrialisation came as a blessing, bringing jobs for all, including women. Factory canteens were 20**

**built, which guaranteed everyone basic rations. Health services improved. Millions benefited from the adult literacy campaign of the 1930s. The educational opportunities open to children expanded swiftly. What is more, in 1936, Stalin proudly introduced the ‘only thoroughly democratic constitution in the world’, with universal, direct, secret and equal suffrage together with a guarantee of civil liberties.**

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**Adapted from E Acton, Russia:  
The Tsarist and Soviet Legacy,  
1995**

**[Turn over]**

**EXTRACT C**

**The October Revolution launched a transformation of Russian society. By 1921, revolution and civil war had removed the tsarist upper classes. Most of the landed nobility, bourgeoisie and clergy had vanished, through emigration, expropriation or death. Yet there remained a large class of small property-owners, Nepmen and kulaks. In 1929, the Soviet government launched an assault on these remnants of capitalism; no one would be allowed to live off the ownership of property. All should now live by manual labour. However, the society that emerged was very different from the socialist ideals of the October Revolution. A distinct social group evolved as the**

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**privileges of party leaders, industrial managers, shock workers, army officers, police officials and intellectuals rose sharply. By 1941, at least half a million people of working class origin had moved into white-collar and managerial jobs. These favoured individuals had access to better housing, cars, luxury goods and special stores. Instead of a classless society, a hierarchical society dominated by a privileged elite had developed.**

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

**[Turn over]**

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**Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to social change in Communist Russia in the years 1917 to 1941. [30 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**SECTION B**

**Answer TWO questions.**

**0 2**

**‘In the years 1855 to 1881, the Russian economy remained weak and underdeveloped.’**

**Assess the validity of this view.  
[25 marks]**

**0 3**

**How successful was Nicholas II in maintaining tsarist autocracy in Russia in the years 1894 to 1914? [25 marks]**

**0 4**

**‘The years from 1941 to 1964 were a time of political uncertainty and social hardship for the people of the Soviet Union.’**

**Assess the validity of this view.  
[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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