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# A-level HISTORY

## Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Paper 1H

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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 **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.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

By 1914, there was a rapid increase in the power and influence of social groups in favour of liberal, rather than violent, change. In the countryside, the new class of farmers provided a mass base for liberal democracy, while the rapidly-growing 'third element' – doctors, teachers, midwives and agricultural experts – provided a natural base for liberal reformism. In the cities, the modernisation of workers, such as printers, increased co-operation between the working class and progressive sections of society. At the same time, Russia's intelligentsia became integrated into an increasingly dynamic and self-confident society. In the aftermath of the 1905 revolution, the state had become increasingly receptive to evolution along liberal lines. The establishment of the State Duma and a wide range of political parties, created a national forum wherein social conflict could be peacefully resolved. Democratic principles would, of course, take time to establish themselves in a population accustomed to autocracy, but conditions were set for stable political and economic development. The prospects would have been even brighter if only Russia had been blessed by a stronger Tsar. Nicholas destabilised his own government by selecting totally inadequate ministers and by deferring to his hysterical wife.

Adapted from Edward Acton, *Rethinking the Russian Revolution*, 1990

**Extract B**

By the early twentieth century the violent overthrow of the system was increasingly seen as the only answer to autocracy. The failure of successive Dumas to make any headway in the struggle for constitutionalism disillusioned both democrats and moderate reformers and strengthened extremists at both ends of the political spectrum. In the last few years before 1914, political strikes became much more common and the use of force to suppress economic demands was only temporarily adequate as a response. Similarly, the Western influences to which Russia was necessarily exposed as a result of increased trade could not be suppressed by censorship or arbitrary arrest or exile. Illegal presses flourished and a sub-culture of radical and revolutionary societies grew up. If Russia was not on the brink of revolution in 1914, it was, nevertheless, an empire in which support for the existing system was very limited indeed.

Adapted from Paul Hayes, *Russia and Austria-Hungary: Empires Under Pressure*, 1992

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**Extract C**

**Extract C not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions. The source is taken from *A World History of the Twentieth Century: Volume 1 Western Dominance* by J.A.S. Grenville. ISBN: 9780006861126**

In 1905 the October Manifesto promised to bring life t ... As long as Nicholas II reigned, genuine constitutional change on the Western model was blocked.

Adapted from J A S Grenville, *A World History of the Twentieth Century: Volume 1 Western Dominance, 1900–1945*, 1980

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the political situation in Russia by 1914.

**[30 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2**

'The Russian economy was transformed in the years 1894 to 1914.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 3**

'The Bolshevik state under Lenin, between 1918 and 1924, was just as ruthless as the Communist state under Stalin, between 1928 and 1941.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4**

'The lives of the Russian peasants were transformed in the years 1928 to 1964.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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