

**NATIONAL HISTORY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

SCHOOL Baldragon Academy



1. *RUSSIAN SOCIETY*
2. *THE TSARIST STATE*
3. *THE 1905 REVOLUTION*
4. *THE DUMA*
5. *RUSSIA AT WAR*
6. *THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION*
7. *THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION*
8. *THE BOLSHEVIK STATE*
9. *THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR*
10. *LENIN*

Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	1.3
3a	1.1
3b	1.2

**RUSSIAN SOCIETY**

**4/1**

**Q.1** Explain why Russia was a difficult country for Nicholas II to govern when he became Tsar.

3

**SOURCE A** is a description of a peasant village by a visitor to the Ukraine in 1903.

The main street of the village was a dirt track running through the middle of the village. The huts of the peasants were made from logs or mud bricks. Each hut had only one room with an iron stove and a clay oven. In every dwelling is an icon (holy painting) of the family's special saint. Adults slept on the stove and the children lay on the floor with sacks or rags as covers.

In **SOURCE B** a modern historian describes a typical peasant home during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

Peasant houses were wooden cabins with thatched roofs and a stove where people slept. The single room where an entire family lived contained a few items of rough wooden furniture and there was always an icon hanging on the wall. There was little light and little comfort in these awful hovels.

**Q.2** Compare the accounts of the living conditions of Russian peasants in **SOURCE A** and **SOURCE B**. Describe in detail their similarities and/or differences. You can also briefly compare the overall attitude of the sources.

4

**SOURCE C** is part of a report for investors by a French banker who visited Russia in 1896

**SOURCE C**

I saw unsafe and unhealthy working conditions in every factory I visited. Discipline is harsh and workers have to pay fines for the smallest mistake. In some places, young workers are beaten with a leather strap or with a stick. Most workers live in the overcrowded, filthy barracks near the factory provided by the factory owners.

**Q.3** Look at **SOURCE C**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about the lives of factory workers in Tsarist Russia.

4

Q.	LO
1	2.1
2	2.2
3	1.1
—	—

**THE TSARIST STATE**

**4/2**

**Q.1** Describe the system of government in Russia before 1917.

3

**SOURCE A** describes Tsarist rule in Russia before 1917.

**SOURCE A**

The Tsar was an autocrat. There was no parliament. There were no elections. People did not have the vote. The Tsar was against any change in the way Russia was governed. Opposition political parties were banned. The Russian people had no peaceful way of changing the way their country was ruled.

**Q.2** Explain how the Tsar tried to stop any opposition to his rule. You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4

**Q3.** Organise the evidence in the information to show the **STRENGTHS** and **WEAKNESSES** of the Russian autocracy when Nicholas II became Tsar.

4

**INFORMATION**

The Tsar had the support of the nobility and the army which he used to control the people and make them obey his laws.

Peasants and workers lived in poverty and many supported political parties who wanted Russia to have an elected parliament.

The church taught people that the Tsar had been put on the throne by God and must be obeyed.

National minorities hated Russian rule and wanted to be independent.

The Tsar was an autocrat who made his own laws and chose his own government. There was no parliament in Russia.

Poor transport made it difficult for soldiers and government officials to travel to provinces thousands of miles from the capital.

Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	2.1
3a	1.1
3b	1.2

**THE 1905 REVOLUTION**

**4/3**

In **SOURCE A** an historian writes about the 1905 Revolution in Russia.

**SOURCE A**

The Tsar believed that a successful war against Japan would make him more popular. The war went badly and Russia was defeated and humiliated. Strikes and protests were dealt with harshly. The Tsar's soldiers shot thousands of workers and peasants. The protests continued and became more violent. Unrest spread from the large towns to farming areas.

**Q.1** Explain why the Tsar's rule was threatened by events in Russia in 1905? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4

**Q.2** Describe the events of 'Bloody Sunday' in St Petersburg on 22 January 1905.

3

**SOURCE B** is from a letter to the Tsar by the Russian Government Minister Alexei Yermolov, January 26, 1905

**SOURCE B**

You cannot rely on armed force and troops alone. The soldiers are still doing their duty but what if the peasants rise up and the slaughter begins in the countryside. What soldiers shall we use then? Can we be sure that the troops will always obey their officers and fire into the people? The government's position is impossible if it has to depend only on the troops.

**Q.3** Look at **SOURCE B**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about the problems facing the Russian government after 'Bloody Sunday'

4

Q.	LO
1a	1.1
1b	1.2
2	2.2
3b	2.1

**THE DUMA**

**4/4**

**SOURCE A** is part of a letter from Tsar Nicholas II to his mother in October 1905.

**SOURCE A**

My Chief Minister, Count Witte tells me I must agree to new rights for the people – freedom of speech, the right to hold meetings and form workers unions. I must also allow a State Duma to meet and discuss every new law. Practically everyone I ask believes this is the only way to end the troubles.

**Q.1** Look at **SOURCE A**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about why Tsar Nicholas II agreed to the October Manifesto?

4

In **SOURCE B** a historian writes about the Russian Duma after 1906.

**SOURCE B**

Nicholas made sure that the Duma had no real power. They could not appoint Government Ministers and had no control over policy, the police or the army. The Duma could advise Nicholas but he could ignore them if he chose.

**Q.2** Explain why the Duma of failed to change the system of government in Russia after 1906. You may use **SOURCE B** and should also use your own knowledge.

3

**Q.3** In what ways did Peter Stolypin try to improve peasant farming in Russia?

3

Q.	LO
1	2.1
2	2.2
3a	1.1
3b	1.2

**RUSSIA AT WAR 1914-1918**

**4/5**

**SOURCE A** describes Russia at war in 1915.

**SOURCE A**

The Russian army suffered from shortages of shells and rifles. There were no medical supplies to treat the wounded. In July 1915, the Grand Duke Michael resigned and the Tsar, who had no experience of leading an army, became Commander in Chief of the armed forces. This was a serious mistake.

**Q.1** Describe the problems that faced soldiers in the Russian army during the First World War? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4

**Q.2** Explain why the war caused great hardship for Russian civilians.

3

**SOURCE B** is from a police report written for the Tsar’s government in 1916.

**SOURCE B**

In the villages, the peasants are angry because the army takes away all the young men and the best horses. This makes it impossible to carry out normal work on the farms. In the towns, the situation is even worse. Food prices are rising every day and there is widespread hunger. People spend hours queuing for bread. The shortage of fuel makes it impossible to keep warm.

**Q.3** Look at **SOURCE B**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about the effects of the war in Russia?

4

Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	2.1
3a	1.1
3b	1.2

<b>THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION &amp; THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4/6</b>
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**Q.1** Why did the rule of Nicholas II come to an end in February 1917?

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**SOURCE A** is about the situation in the Putilov arms factory in September 1917.

**SOURCE A**

The Putilov factory was the largest producer of weapons for the Russian army. The workers demanded a huge pay rise and refused to obey the instructions of their managers. They turned up drunk for work and stole anything worth selling. Production fell sharply. Shortages of fuel and other essential materials only made the situation worse.
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**Q.2** What problems faced the Provisional government of Russia in 1917?  
You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4
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**SOURCE B** is by the Minister for War in the Provisional Government in 1917.

**SOURCE B**

We have no real power. The orders of the Provisional Government are obeyed only so long as the Petrograd Soviet agrees. The Soviet controls the important levers of power, such as the army, the railways and the postal and telegraph services. The Provisional Government only exists because it is allowed to by the Soviet.
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**Q.3** Look at **SOURCE B**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about the problems facing the Provisional Government?

4
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Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	1.3
3	2.1
—	—

<b>THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION</b>
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<b>4/7</b>
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**SOURCE A** describes Alexander Kerensky's efforts to save the Provisional government.

**SOURCE A**

It was clear that the Bolsheviks intended to seize control of Petrograd. Kerensky ordered army units to return from the front to defend his government. They should have arrived in the city by 7 October but they did not appear. The railway had been sabotaged BY Bolshevik supporters and the troop trains were unable to proceed.

- Q.1** Explain why Kerensky was unable to prevent the Bolsheviks from seizing power in Russia? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4
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**SOURCE B** and **SOURCE C** describe the Bolshevik seizure of the Winter Palace on 7 November 1917.

**SOURCE B**

The Winter Palace was guarded only by units of The Women's Battalion and a small force of cadets. They were heavily outnumbered by the Bolsheviks. In the early evening a note was sent demanding the government's surrender. No reply was given and the Bolsheviks began an assault with machine-guns and armoured cars. The sailors of the cruiser Aurora opened fire in support of the Bolsheviks and the terrified women and boys gave up. They were soon followed by members of the government who were taken prisoner. There was little bloodshed during the whole affair.

**SOURCE C**

On the evening of 7th November the poorly guarded Winter Palace was captured without any real fighting. The women and young cadets who defended the palace were no match for the Red Guards armed with machine guns and armoured cars. When the loud booms of the guns of the Aurora were heard most of the defenders ran off or surrendered. The ministers of the Provisional Government surrendered and were arrested.

- Q.2** Compare the accounts of the Bolshevik seizure of the Winter Palace in **SOURCE B** and **SOURCE C**. Describe in detail their similarities and/or differences. You can also briefly compare the overall attitude of the sources.

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- Q.3** Describe how the Bolsheviks seized power in October 1917.

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Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	1.1
3	2.1
—	—

**THE BOLSHEVIK STATE** **4/8**

**SOURCE A** describes the results of the elections to the Constituent Assembly, held at the end of 1917.

**SOURCE A**

The Social Revolutionary Party had strong support amongst the peasants and in the election; they gained twice as many votes as the Bolsheviks. When the Constituent Assembly met in January 1918 it bitterly criticized the Bolsheviks and their Revolution. Lenin ended this brief experiment in democracy by declaring the elections invalid and abolishing the Assembly.

**Q.1** Explain why Lenin abolished the Constituent Assembly? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge. 4

**Q2.** Organise the opinions in the information to show the **BENEFITS** and **DRAWBACKS** of Bolshevik rule after the revolution. 4

**INFORMATION**

**Workers councils were given control of factories and this led to better wages and working conditions.**

**Newspapers that were not controlled by the Bolsheviks were forced to close down.**

**Women and national minorities were given more freedom and equal rights.**

**The Cheka (secret police) arrested, tortured, and executed thousands of people suspected of being against the Bolsheviks.**

**The Land Decree gave the peasants the right to keep land they had seized.**

**All other political parties were banned and their leaders were arrested.**

**Q.3** Describe how the Bolsheviks treated those who opposed them? 3

Q.	LO
1	2.2
2	2.1
3	1.3
—	—

<b>THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR</b>	<b>4/9</b>
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**SOURCE A** describes some of the causes of the Civil War in Russia.

**SOURCE A**

Even supporters of the Bolsheviks saw the treaty of Brest-Litovsk as a betrayal of Russia. Most army officers hated the Bolsheviks and now that they no longer had to fight the Germans they turned their guns on the communists. From 1918 until the end of 1920 the White and the Red armies fought a bitter civil war.

**Q.1** Why did a Civil War break out in Russia in 1918? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4

**Q.2** Describe the two sides that fought in the Civil War.

3

**SOURCE B** and **SOURCE C** explains why the Whites lost the Civil War.

**SOURCE B**

The Whites had control of large areas of the Russian countryside. However the industrial cities of central Russia were occupied by the Red Army. The British, French and Americans supported the Whites and sent supplies and equipment but very few soldiers. People in France and Britain had enough of war and were unhappy about fighting to crush a revolution by fellow workers. White soldiers treated the peasants with great cruelty and this lost them more support.

**SOURCE C**

Although the whites were given supplies of food and weapons by the allies they were only prepared to send a small number of troops. Support for the Whites was not popular and in Britain and France dock workers refused to load ships headed for Russia. White forces controlled large areas of rural Russia but had little support because of their brutal treatment of the peasants. In the cities the industrial workers remained loyal to the Bolsheviks.

**Q.3** Compare the reasons why the Whites lost the civil war in **SOURCE B** and **SOURCE C**. Describe in detail their similarities and/or differences. You can also briefly compare the overall attitude of the sources.

4

Q.	LO
1	1.2
2	1.1
3a	1.1
3b	1.2

**LENIN** **4/10**

**SOURCE A** describes Lenin’s role in the events leading to the October Revolution.

**SOURCE A**

Lenin believed that the war provided an ideal opportunity for a small group of dedicated revolutionaries to seize power. On his return to Russia, he declared that the Bolsheviks should do everything possible to undermine and eventually overthrow the Provisional Government. He believed that the situation in Russia was favorable for a second revolution.

**Q.1** How important was Lenin’s role in the October revolution? You may use **SOURCE A** and should also use your own knowledge.

4

**Q2.** Organise the evidence in the information to show the effects of Lenin’s policy of **WAR COMMUNISM** and the effects of his **NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP)**

4

**INFORMATION**

Food was in short supply and could only be bought at government controlled shops.

Peasants were allowed to sell any extra food they produced for a profit.

Food was rationed so that workers and soldiers who were helping the Bolsheviks to fight the civil war got most food.

Small businesses were permitted and local markets where peasants and craftsmen could sell their produce were set up.

Red Guards were sent into villages and farms to take grain and other produce from the peasants by force.

The production of food and other goods increased and some peasants and small businessmen became wealthy.

Lenin wrote **SOURCE B** in 1906.

**SOURCE B**

A communist must be prepared to make every sacrifice. If necessary, even resort to all sorts of schemes, use illegal methods, hide the truth, in order to get into trade unions, stay there, and conduct revolutionary work within.

**Q.3** Look at **SOURCE B**. You should:

- a) State the origin of the source. This means that you should identify who made the source and when the source was made.
- b) Explain in your own words what the source tells us about Lenin’s political methods?

4