

GCSE History

Revision

Unit 2

Russia 1917-1939

Contents

*About the exam

Key information about the exam and types of questions you will be required to answer.

*Revision Spider Diagrams

Use your class notes to help you complete revision spider diagrams on the major issues of the unit by writing your ideas in the boxes provided.

*Revision Activities

Test your understanding of key events, features, people etc.

*Exam Practice Questions

Practice answering real exam style questions to improve your exam technique.

About the Exam

*The title of the exam is Russia 1917-1939 and it is paper 2 of your History GCSE.

*The exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long and you have to answer a total of 6 questions.

*The topics you have studied are:

- 1) The collapse of the tsarist regime, 1917
- 2) Bolshevik takeover and consolidation, 1917-24
- 3) The nature of Stalin's dictatorship, 1924-39
- 4) Economic and social changes, 1928-39

*In the exam you have to answer all parts of question 1, and then either question (2a) or (2b) and either question (3a) or (3b). Aim to divide your time up as follows:

(1a) = **source inference** - getting messages from a source. (4 marks = abt 6 minutes)

(1b) = **Describe the key features** - give a detailed description of the key events in a given period. (6 marks = abt 8 minutes)

(1c) = **Consequence** - explain the effects or results of an event. (8 marks = abt 10 minutes)

(1d) = **Causation** - explain the reasons why something happened. (8 marks = abt 10 minutes)

(2a) or (2b) = **Change** - explain how or why something happened. (8 marks = abt 12 minutes)

(3a) or (3b) = **Scaffolding/Judgement** - assessing the importance of causes, changes or consequences. It will give you four main points which you should develop and explain the importance of each one. (16 marks = abt 25 minutes)

*Make sure you leave some time to proof read your answers.

*You may find it helpful to make a brief plan for the longer answers - especially the 16 mark question.

Revision Spider Diagrams

The Ruler

The Ruled

World War One

**Russia 1914-1917:
People, Events &
Consequences**

Initial impact of WW1

Effect on Russia

By February 1917...

The Army

Social Conditions - Urban

Social Conditions - Rural

**How did World War One
bring about the fall of
Tsar Nicholas II?**

The Tsarina

Weaknesses of Nicholas
Romanov

Results

Provisional Government

Important Reforms made

Effects of Reforms

**Who ruled Russia after
the Tsar abdicated in
1917?**

The Soviet

Soviet Order Number
One

Results of Order Number
One

Key individuals

Provisional Government

Bolsheviks

**Why did the
October/November 1917
Revolution succeed?**

Circumstances

Events

Analysis

Leadership

Geography

Foreign Support

**Russian Civil War: Did
the Reds "win" or the
Whites "lose"?**

Aims of the armies

Attitude of the peasants

Organisation

Five Year Plans

Success

Failure

**Stalin's economic policy:
success or failure?**

Collectivisation

Success

Failure

Revision Activities

Topic 1: The collapse of the tsarist regime, 1917

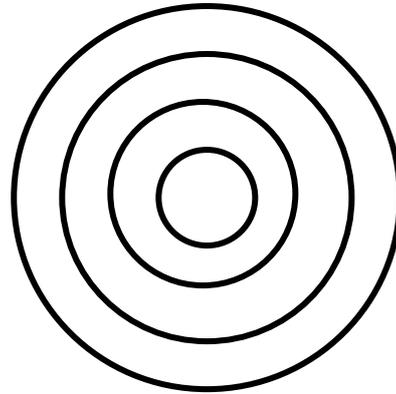
1) Sketch four concentric circles. Then put the following effects of the First World War on Russia in 1914-16 in order, beginning with the most important in the centre to the least important on the outside. Give a brief explanation of your choice.

*Inflation

*Influence of Rasputin

*Food shortages

*Military defeats



2) Match each of the lettered sentences with one of the numbered sentences.

(a) More and more peasants were called up to fight in the armed forces.
(b) Russia suffered defeat after defeat during the first year of the war.
(c) The tsar's frequent absences from Petrograd left the tsarina in charge of the government.
(d) Russia did not have a transport system that could cope with the demands of war.
(e) There were serious shortages of consumer goods such as boots and clothes.

(i) She was greatly influenced by Rasputin.
(ii) Vital supplies of food often failed to reach towns and cities.
(iii) Therefore Tsar Nicholas II decided to take over the command of the armed forces.
(iv) These shortages led to a rise in prices.
(v) This led to less land being ploughed and serious food shortages.

Topic 2: Bolshevik takeover and consolidation, 1917-24

1) Place the following events in chronological order:

*Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly

*Execution of the Tsar and his family

*Red victory in the Civil War

*Lenin's first decrees

*Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

2) Explain why each of the following was important in the civil war in the years 1918-21:

*Trotsky's train

*Foreign support for the Whites

*Admiral Kolchak

*General Deniken

*The *Cheka*

3) Make a copy of the following table. In less than five words for each column, summarise the differences between War Communism and the NEP.

	Why introduced	Key features	Successes	Failures
War Communism				
New Economic Policy				

4) Which of the following phrases best sums up the NEP?

- *It was an economic necessity but politically unpopular.
- *It was an economic necessity and politically unpopular.
- *It was a political necessity but economically unpopular.

Explain your choice.

Topic 3: The nature of Stalin's dictatorship, 1924-39

1) What explanation can you give for the following contradictory statements?

- *Trotsky was the favourite to succeed Lenin and yet it was Stalin who became leader.
- *Lenin warned leading Bolsheviks against Stalin and yet Stalin became leader.

2) Match the statements to either Trotsky or Stalin

Strengths of Stalin	Weaknesses of Trotsky
	(a) He was too arrogant (b) He had a key position as General Secretary (c) He missed Lenin's funeral (d) He was unpopular because he had been a Menshevik (e) One problem was his Jewish background (f) He was the chief mourner at Lenin's funeral (g) He underestimated his chief opponent (h) He promised 'Socialism in One Country' (i) He wanted World Revolution (j) He placed supporters in leading positions in the Party

3) Use illustrations to show the meanings of the following words and phrases:

*The Purges

*Show Trials

*Labour camps

*Secret Police

*Murder of Kirov

4) Which of the following are causes of and which are effects of the purges?

	Cause or effect?
The murder of Kirov	
The armed forces lacked leadership	
Millions were sent to labour camps	
Stalin's fear of the Old Bolsheviks	
Stalin had a persecution complex	
Slave labour was needed for industrialisation	
Stalin needed someone to blame for the failure of his policies	
All the old Bolsheviks were eliminated	
Even the secret police were purged	

Topic 4: Economic and social changes, 1928-39

1) True or false?

	True	False
The First Five-Year Plan lasted four years		
The First Five-Year Plan concentrated on consumer goods		
Much industry was now located in the east		
The Third Five-Year Plan was interrupted by the German invasion of the Soviet Union		
Fines were introduced for lateness and absenteeism		
The Stakhanovites were popular with their fellow workers		

Exam Practice Questions

1) Study Source A

Source A: From a history of the Twentieth Century, published in 1999. This source describes Russia in 1917.

The Russian armies eventually collapsed in 1917, but this was due more to poor leadership, inadequate supplies and political developments at home, than to defeat in the field. Russia's cities experienced food shortages. There was inflation and enthusiasm for the war had been replaced by discontent and waves of strikes. By early 1917 all the ingredients for revolution existed in Russia.

- (a) What does Source A tell us about the problems facing Tsar Nicholas II in 1917? (4 marks)
- (b) Describe the key features of the government of Russia under Tsar Nicholas II before the revolution in February 1917. (6 marks)
- (c) Explain the effects of the February Revolution on Russia in 1917. (8 marks)
- (d) Explain why the Bolsheviks were able to seize power in October 1917. (8 marks)

EITHER

2a) Explain how the economic policies of Lenin's government changed in the years 1918-24. (8 marks)

OR

2b) Explain how Stalin was able to overcome his leadership rivals in the years 1924-28. (8 marks)

EITHER

3a) Was the use of propaganda the main reason Stalin was able to achieve complete control over the Soviet Union by 1939? Explain your answer. (16 marks)

You may use the following information to help you with your answer:

- *The use of propaganda
- *The purges
- *The show trials
- *Control over education

OR

3b) Was the Stakhanovite Movement the main reason for the rapid expansion of Soviet industry in the 1930s? Explain your answer. (16 marks)

You may use the following information to help you with your answer:

- *The Stakhanovite Movement
- *Gosplan
- *The First Five-Year Plan
- *Role of women

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1) Study Source A.

Source A: From a History of the Twentieth Century, written in 2000.

The Provisional Government was weak and it did not provide the people with what they wanted. It was unable to take Russia out of the war, or bring about the necessary reforms. The changes it did make, like introducing freedom of speech, just made Russia harder to govern. The weakness of the Provisional Government meant that, even if it had wanted to, it could not make the major changes that many had hoped for.

(a) What can you learn from Source A about the problems facing the Provisional Government in 1917? (4 marks)

(b) Describe the key features of Lenin's New Economic Policy. (6 marks)

(c) Explain the effects of Stalin's policy of collectivisation on the Soviet Union. (8 marks)

(d) Explain why Soviet industry expanded rapidly in the 1930s. (8 marks)

EITHER

2a) Explain how opposition to the Tsar grew in Russia in 1917. (8 marks)

OR

2b) Explain how Stalin dealt with opposition to his rule in the Soviet Union in the 1930s. (8 marks)

EITHER

3a) Was Trotsky's leadership of the Red Army the main reason why the Bolsheviks won the Civil War? Explain your answer. (16 marks)

You may use the following information in your answer and any other information of your own.

- *Trotsky's leadership of the Red Army
- *The weaknesses of the Whites
- *The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- *War Communism

OR

3b) Was industrialisation the most important effect of Stalin's rule on the Soviet Union? Explain your answer. (16 marks)

You may use the following information in your answer and any other information of your own.

- *Industrialisation
- *The purges of the 1930s
- *The cult of Stalin
- *Changes in working and living conditions