

## History and Politics Department: Revision Advice

Subject	History
Exam Board	OCR
Unit	Russian Dictatorships, 1855 to 1964.
Unit Code	F966
Format of Exam	2hrs Students answer 2 questions from a choice of 3.
Link to Specification	<a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/asa_levelgceforfirstteachingin2008/history_a/index.html">http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/asa_levelgceforfirstteachingin2008/history_a/index.html</a>

### Key Issues for Revision

Revise ENTIRE period chronologically:

Alexander II  
Alexander III  
Nicholas II  
Provisional Government  
Lenin  
Stalin  
Khrushchev

Then consider the themes:

War  
Opposition  
Economy (industry, agriculture)  
Workers/ peasants  
Nature of Government  
Nationalities  
Turning points  
Continuities/changes/developments

### Revision Materials

Please make full use of the 'Essay bank' booklet and essay plans. You have been given many additional articles throughout the year to supplement your notes.

### Suggested Revision Activities

- Produce essay plans in response to past/possible questions.
- Practise responding to past/possible questions in timed conditions.
- Make detailed revision notes on the key periods and themes.

- Revision must involve an activity - simply reading through notes/text-books is not enough.

### Specific Paper Advice

- You must answer 2 questions out of 3.
- You have 2hrs - make sure you spend 1 hr on each question.
- Spend 5 - 10 minutes planning your answer first to ensure that you have a clear structure.
- Use specific, brief and relevant evidence to back up your points.
- You must make reference to ALL parts of the period.
- You must ensure that your answers are balanced with a clear judgement expressed.
- Ensure assertions, analysis and evaluation are substantiated by relevant examples drawn from across the period. (Easy to forget Provisional Government, Lenin and Khrushchev)
- Be able to make comparisons between pre/post 1917. Some questions will naturally invite this – “Were the peasants better off under tsarist or communist governments?” – but it should be a feature of almost all of your answers (within themes or in concluding paragraphs)
- Identify real and illusionary turning points
- Consider whether the pace of change was roughly constant or distinctly uneven and why. Are there any anomalous periods/phases. (Tsars were reactionary – but Alexander II introduced a range of ‘liberal’ reforms. Peasants were never free – but first few months of Bolshevik rule, NEP)
- Be aware of the ways in which elements of the key themes were different at the end of the period from the ways each had been at the start of period and why.
- Examine trends and advance counterfactuals. For example, was Russia, as liberal historians suggest, developing along ‘western’ lines by 1914. If it had survived the war, would the history of the second half of our period been very different?

## Responses

1. **How far do you agree with the view that Lenin did most to transform Russia in the period 1855-1956?**

**How far do you agree that the assassination of Tsar Alexander II was the most important turning-point in the development of Russia during the period from 1855 to 1956?**

**Was Stalin the most successful ruler of Russia in the period 1855 to 1956? Explain with reference to the rulers of this period.**

How to respond:

- Choose your themes: political, economic, social, cultural, geo-political.
- Employ the YES/NO/OTHER CONTENDERS/JUDGEMENT APPROACH

2. **How far do you agree that the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II was the most significant turning point in the nature of Russian government in the period from 1855 to 1956?**

How to respond:

- Choose your themes: role of leader, structures of government, use of terror, ideology, treatment of social groups etc
- Employ the YES/NO/OTHER CONTENDERS/JUDGEMENT APPROACH

3. **How far do you agree that the credit for industrialising Russia in the period from 1855 to 1956 can only be given to Stalin?**

How to respond:

- It is difficult to break down industrialising Russia into themes so simply ..
- Employ the YES/NO/OTHER CONTENDERS/JUDGEMENT APPROACH

**4. How far did the working class of Russia suffer more from Bolshevik rule than Tsarist rule during the years from 1855 to 1956?**

How to respond:

- Again, quite difficult to use themes so
- YES/NO/JUDGEMENT APPROACH

**5. 'The problems of governing Russia were addressed in the same ways by both Tsarist and Communist rulers in the period from 1855 to 1956.' How far do you agree with this view?**

- Easier to break down into themes
- YES/NO/JUDGEMENT APPROACH

**6. 'The need to modernise their backward economy was the most important reason why the rulers of Russia introduced reforms'. How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1855 to 1956?**

- Rather like the GCSE style question. Clearly factor in the question was important, however there were a number of other motivations.