



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2021

HISTORY

Tuesday 27 April 2021

You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.

You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

- **Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions in the answer sheet provided – do not answer in the exam paper.**

Section A: Travelling in the Russian Empire in 1914

Read ALL the Sources, and then answer ALL the questions that follow.

Mackenzie Wallace, a Scotsman, visited many parts of Russia in the 1870s. Sources B-D, all from his book, Russia, which was first published in 1877, describe different ways of travelling around the empire.

Source A: The Russian Empire in 1914



Source B: Travelling by train

The carriages are decidedly better than in England, and in winter they are kept warm by small iron stoves, assisted by double windows and double doors – a very necessary precaution in a land where the thermometer often falls to 30 degrees below zero. The trains never attain, it is true, a high rate of speed – so at least English and Americans think – but then we must remember that Russians are rarely in a hurry and like to have frequent opportunities of eating and drinking ... From Moscow to St Petersburg the locomotive runs for a distance of 400 miles almost as the crow is supposed to fly, turning to neither the right hand nor to the left. For twelve weary hours the passenger in the express train looks out on forest and marsh, and rarely catches sight of human habitation.

Source C: Travelling by boat, on the river Don

The river is extremely shallow, and the sandbanks are continually shifting, so that many times in the course of the day the steamer runs aground. Sometimes she is got off by simply reversing the engines ... The captain always gives a stalwart number of the local people a free passage on condition that they should give him

the assistance he required; and as soon as the ship stuck fast, he ordered them to jump overboard with a thick rope and pull them off.

Source D: Travelling by the Imperial post service

One has to apply to the proper authorities for a ... large sheet of paper stamped with the Imperial Eagle, and bearing the name of the recipient, the destination and the number of horses to be supplied ... Armed with this document you go to the post-station and demand the requisite number of horses. The vehicle ... resembles an enormous cradle on wheels ... An armful of hay spread over the bottom of the wooden box is supposed to play the part of seats and cushions.

Answer ALL of the following questions. You should use detail from the sources in your answers.

Read Source B

1. What can we learn from this source about the Russian Empire at this time? [5 marks]

Look at Source C

2. What were the main problems of travelling by boat? [5 marks]

Read Source D

3. What obstacles did the Russian government put in the way of travellers who wanted to use the Imperial post service? [5 marks]

Use ALL the Sources

4. How useful are accounts by travellers like Wallace to modern historians studying Russia at the start of the twentieth century? [10 marks]

Total for Section A: 25 marks

Section B: Essay

Answer **ONE** of the following questions.

In answering your chosen question, you should **try to use examples and comparisons from your study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading**, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully.

Each question is worth **25 marks**.

1. **Explain** why any ONE war that you have studied was won and lost. Try to demonstrate how some factors were more important than others in securing the outcome.
2. Do 'Great Men' or 'Great Women' owe more to their own genius for their success, or more to favourable circumstances? You may focus on one example or use several as you **explain** your answer.
3. If you could choose to live in any other period of history apart from the present, which would it be and why? **Explain** what major differences you would notice compared to the present.
4. **Explain** how important inventors and inventions have been in affecting the development of history?
5. Which are more important in producing major outbreaks of instability in your view: economic factors, political factors or religious factors? Use your knowledge of a period you have studied to **explain** your answer.

END OF PAPER