

AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Component 1H Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7041/1H.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Alexander II's assassination ushered in a period of repressive government under Alexander III, a man with a deserved reputation for intolerance and heavy-handed police methods. The Loris-Melikov 'constitution' was unceremoniously, even scornfully, scrapped by Alexander III immediately on his ascending the throne and there followed a programme of counter-reform. Anything smacking of liberalism was hated by the tsar. His government and police were given extensive new powers. He succeeded in turning back the clock in local government, stifling initiative, persecuting the non-Orthodox, allowing pogroms and encouraging economic policies which actively promoted famine. In short, he transformed the country into an oppressive police state. 5

Adapted from A Wood, *The Romanov Empire*, 2007**Extract B**

Alexander III was honest and hard-working. His family loyalty was so strong, he considered continuing with Loris-Melikov's scheme for his father's sake, but this was vigorously opposed by Pobedonostsev. Alexander's new Minister of Finance, Bunge, was in favour of intelligent administrative reform. Experts took part in the discussion of redemption dues, which were reduced and considerable sums assigned to the zemstva for the relief of local distress. Bunge abolished the detested poll tax and founded a Peasants' Bank. Pobedonostsev demanded repression to maintain public calm but life moved forwards: the peasants took up more land or were off to towns. Russia was becoming an industrial country. In 1892 Witte succeeded Bunge, with the firmest support from Alexander III. 10

Adapted from B Pares, *A History of Russia*, 1955**0 1**

With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the reign of Alexander III?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'The 1905 revolution in Russia was due to the growth of liberal opposition to the Tsarist autocracy in the years 1894 to 1905.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'In the years 1905 to 1914, the problems of the peasantry and Russian agriculture were mostly resolved.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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