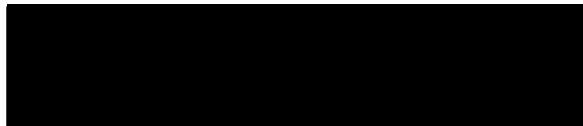
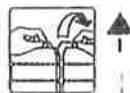
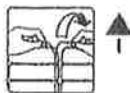


Script A

Centre Mark 17/40





Coursework authentication sheet

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	
Assignment title: Example Question 3 – Causes of the Russian Revolution	
Have you received advice on the title from the <i>Assignment guidance service</i> ?	Y
Centre name:	Centre number:
Candidate name:	Candidate number:
State the examined options that are being taken: Paper 1: Britain 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement Paper 2: Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924 Paper 3: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA: 1850-2009	
Mark awarded	Comments [<i>Comment box expands as you start entering text</i>]
BP1 Mid L3	Range of valid reading. Some selection of content and deployed to support. Referencing/citing not always in full or accurate.
BP2 Low L3	Some judgement offered from start, but limited. Some contextual KU but weaker development. Some points not fully substantiated.
BP3 Low L3	Some analysis offered but limited development only throughout. Some attempts to compare/contrast interpretations and differences between them. Acknowledges some issues of interpretation.
BP4 High L2	Some reference to criteria although rarely applied. Some evaluation and judgements offered on validity of chosen works
BP5 High L2	Some KU deployed to support. Generally accessible and answer has some attempts to provide clear structure.
17 marks	
Word count	2594 words

Teacher declaration

I declare that the work submitted for assessment has been carried out without assistance other than that which is acceptable according to the rules of the specification.

Assessor name			
Assessor signature		Date	

Candidate declaration

I certify that the work submitted for this assignment is my own. I have clearly referenced any materials used in the work. I understand that false declaration is a form of malpractice.

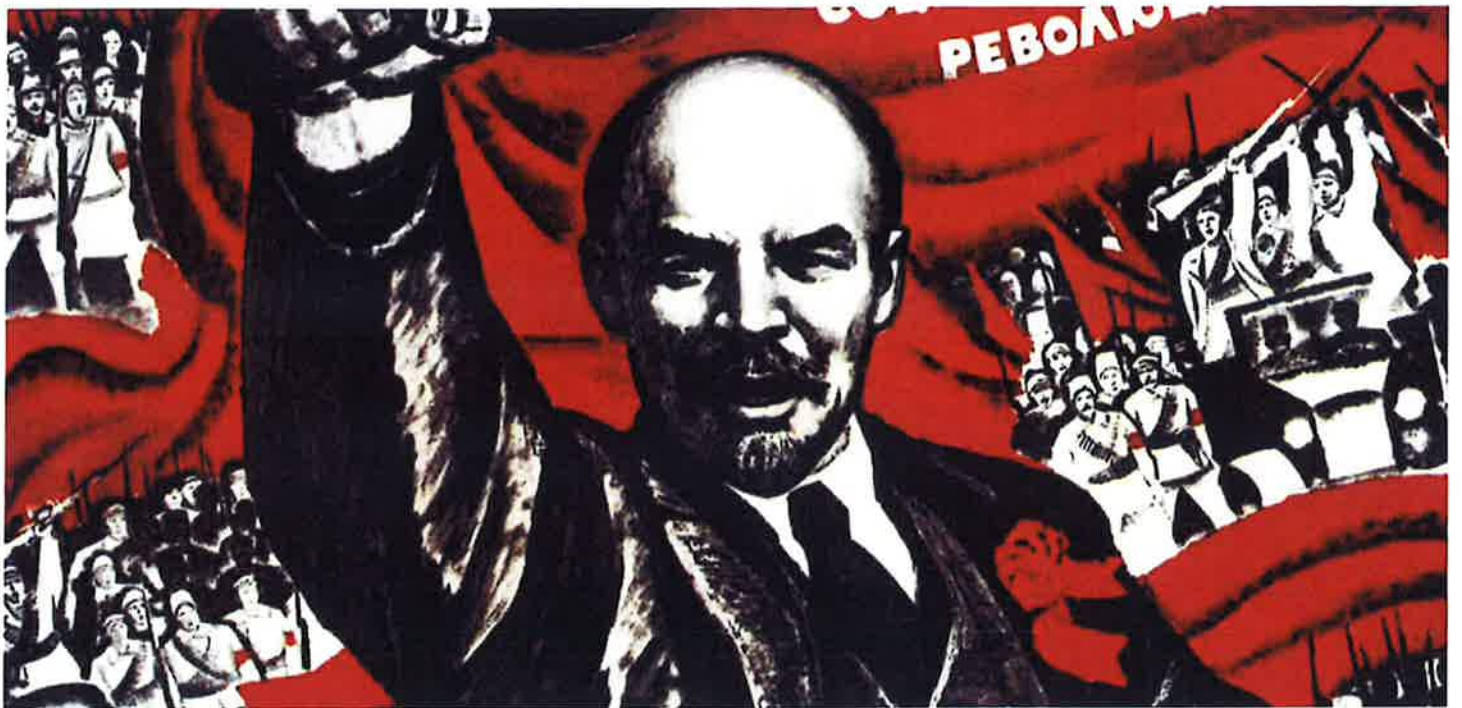
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Additional Candidate declaration

By signing this additional declaration, you agree to your work being used to support Professional Development, Online Support and Training of Centre-Assessors and Pearson Moderators.

Candidate signature		Date	
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THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



Historians have disagreed about the causes of the Russian Revolution (1917).

What is your view about the cause of the Russian Revolution?

My Perspective

In my opinion, I side mainly with the revisionist perspective because I agree that individuals do play a large part in what happens. Without the leadership of the two men, Lenin and Trotsky, the entire effective Bolshevik party could have been useless in bringing around the revolution. These two were the mind behind the party as all the Bolsheviks ideas seemingly came from one of the two so without them the Bolshevik party would have not have done any of the actions we today see as important parts that pushed the country towards revolution. Furthermore, it was the promises from Lenin about obtaining a new government that lead to many people joining the group. Initially the Bolshevik party was created due to a split in the Social Democrats but without Lenin everyone may have sided with Mensheviks. They did not seek revolution as much and would settle with reforms from the tsar allowing the autocratic rule to continue.

g/r judgement included for that

BPS for evidence, limited

It is in my opinion the best method of historical research as it evaluates the existing information, attempts to find new sources and if so views them with a revaluation of the information they already have to present new ideas on history. Unlike the liberal and soviet historians they have less bias because their view of history has no political affiliation this mean no denial of any event and its outcomes. Instead, they closely examine empirical evidence.

Don't implies the importance of criticism

I disagree with the liberal historians because they state that events are the cause not individuals with the prime example believing the First World War is a significant cause of the Russian Revolution. However, I believe this event in particular supports the idea that individuals can have a large effect. As it was Gavrilo Princip shooting Archduke Franz Ferdinand that started the First World War that went on to effect the whole world. If Princip had failed the war may have been averted. This is therefore evidence that the revisionist perspective is most effective.

BPS's some ability to evaluate

I think that the "Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History"¹ being closed off to the public for so long and only allowing specialists licensed by the Communist Party who will agree with the view of the government shows that the modern day Russian Government does not have full faith in their soviet belief of an inevitable revolution. Events like Lenin almost being detained by a guard on the way to Bolshevik Headquarters if not for acting drunk, could have massive ramifications on what happened with the Bolshevik party, as they would have lost their leader, and that would change their effect on the country, for example having the revolution be a failure. Furthermore, Orlando Figes seeks to disprove the grandeur of the revolution, which he states is a Soviet Myth, and explains that the insurrection "passed unnoticed by the vast majority of the inhabitants of Petrograd. The Legendary storming of the Winter Palace was more like a routine house arrest".⁵ This reanalysis of an event thought to be known shows why the revisionist style of historiography is superior.

interpretations offered here

BPS some acknowledgment of issues of interpretation

BPS some effective depiction of context for reader to support here

The Liberal Perspective

The liberal point of view of the Russian Revolution is that it was triggered by other events that lead to the revolutionary unrest of the Russian people most notably events such as the First World War which was another reason for the people to disagree with those in control of the autocratic government, Tsar Nicholas II. They believe unplanned events lead to the uprising not a large-scale plan with individuals at the centre effecting the outcome. This is known as deterministic theory, which is the idea that individuals have little influence on society and therefore history. This is because they are only capable of doing their actions due to the society they live in which itself was constructed through past events and not individuals. Most of the individuals at time could be summed up into a large group of people unaware of what decisions were being made that would affect them. Groups like the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, took advantage of this and would use the masses outrage at events to push them towards action. This would benefit their cause and beliefs. For example Liberals see the October Revolution (1917) as the exploitation of the social unrest to bring the Bolsheviks closer to their goal to overthrow the current government run by the Duma and end Tsardom forever. The fall of tsardom and autocracy can be seen as supporting the liberal view because it was the event of the First World War that showed the people of Russia that their leader, Tsar Nicholas II, was incompetent in his rule. He was not able to lead an army to victory or establish dynamic reforms to provide for the country in wartime. This has led to some liberals making the claim that if there was no first world war there would therefore be no revolution and people would need to wait for a new event to provide the possibility of change because large-scale events are the only way change can happen in this point of view.

BP see military and energy of integration opened

Historians with a liberal point of view often have a right wing, anti-communist perspective on these events which is why they disagree with the soviet sentiment that the revolution was an inevitable occurrence. This view also holds politics as the key to understanding what caused the events instead of class conflict, which others such as the Marxists focus on. A leading liberal historian in this field is Robert Pipes who explains that if you do look at the influence of the people the impact of this revolution came from above not below meaning that this revolution was more due to those in higher positions like politicians in the Duma and army leaders. These people had the ability to stop the actions of the masses through the intervention of troops by command of the generals but instead allowed them to happen because past events, and the Tsars reaction to them, had influenced these people into not believing the Tsar did not meet the standard to lead Russia. Pipes infers this from his research that took place in the "Russian centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History" which gave him access to accounts from the time. Pipes view is supported by Robert Service who in his work states the "The Great War produced the situation that shattered the Romanov".²

BP issues of integration

BP see capitalisation of negotiations

I question this perspective because this line of thought is commonly from a western historian who has had their views constructed by the prejudices of the Cold War. This results in them being hostile to ideas like Marxism, socialism and communist party rule. They may not want to admit that a group like the Bolsheviks who support

all these ideals were effective and able to transform an entire country through their efforts. In addition, they would not want to reveal that the revolution was actually wanted and popular with the masses as in the west communism is shown as something forced upon its people not asked for. The knowledge as well that the Bolsheviks would later more clearly show totalitarian tendencies as they pushed for a one party, one ideology country would influence how they want to present the group. In addition, Liberal historians have a trend of viewing history from above as in they focus on the figures they consider important and do not view what the average people were doing and how they may have had an impact on the outcome. In addition, out of the viewpoints of liberal, revisionist and soviet this view has the least reliability when it comes to their sources. This is because the revisionist's main purpose is to be the group of historians who reevaluate the facts through the use of new sources that come out. The soviet historians had access to exclusive Russian government documents before anyone else because they were allowed to view them as their view matched that of the Russian government. Liberal historians however just had the sources available to everyone so they lacked the information of the others.

The Revisionist Perspective

Another way to look at the revolution is from a revisionist point of view. This comes from historians like Orlando Figes who have reassessed what they believe happened in past events after the soviet archives were opened to the researchers, not just the Russian approved historians. There are also post-revisionists like Robert Service who get their understanding of events from accounts from both before and after the new accounts were released to form what they believe is a measured conclusion. The desire to do this for some comes from the idea that the history of the Revolution has been "written backwards" by having the outcomes projected onto that period of time instead of the developments that lead up to Russia being in the state it was in 1917. Unlike liberals, revisionists do believe that individuals make a significant impact on history making them in agreement with the "Great man" theory that states that highly influential individuals determine history. A key element of the Russian Revolution, the Bolshevik coup, may not have happened if the mounted patrol guard who saw Lenin had detained him instead of letting him and therefore allowing him to lead the coup. Pipes determines, with all his background knowledge, "Had he been arrested, the Bolshevik coup might very well have never occurred because he was the principal driving force"¹. Also, if Fannie Kaplan, the socialist revolutionary terrorist, had successfully assassinated Lenin he would have not been able to revitalise the Bolshevik Party, which at time was falling apart without him. Revisionists do however also view the changing factors of Russian society as a cause of the October Revolution due to their structuralist approach to history. They perceive that the workers who joined the revolution became militant because of the industrialisation and trade unionism of labour work which negatively affected them. Revisionists seek to also analyse if there are truths or inaccuracies in the general consensus and stereotypes which people come to believe because of the historical narratives that affect people's view of the events. An example is that it is usually seen that the public of Russia were a hive-mind who all shared the same thoughts

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(Chronology?) and beliefs when it came to politics and society. It was believed that they did not have an understanding of how it worked. However, events such as the march to the Winter Palace during Bloody Sunday shows that individuals came together to deal with a government that was not benefiting them. This shows that the will of the individuals of Russia may have helped lead the country to its revolution. A reason why the Bolsheviks were a success is due to their goals seeming to benefit the masses if the masses wanted something else the Bolsheviks may not have actually succeeded.

While this perspective is the one my views align with most, there are still points to take issue with such as their want to reevaluate every preconceived idea may lead to dismissal of the clear truth in the belief that the accounts historians previously had access to must be reassessed. They may do this with the desire of finding a different outcome in this case a different cause for the revolution. The older sources may be more accurate than the newer released sources. For example, the First World War clearly had an effect on the state of Russia as one of the reasons the masses was angry with the ruling government was because they were successfully providing food during wartime.

(APS)
clearly a
major factor!

The Soviet Perspective

The Soviet perspective on history is the one that current day Russia itself holds as they claim that the Russian Revolution was an inevitable thing which is why the Bolsheviks succeeded as Russia at the time had been naturally building towards it happening. These changes came around due to a long process of class conflict between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Marxist ideas, which Lenin had, state that inevitably the proletariat would win and so due to the Bolsheviks being on this side they succeeded. The cause of the revolution has been described as the *longue duree* which refers to trends that neither groups nor individuals can control and slow processes which in this case the overthrowing of the government. These processes that lead to the country being in the right form to change include the failure of the Russo-Japanese war, Bloody Sunday, meaningless reforms like the October Manifesto that didn't solve the issues and more. The most important, besides the actual 1917 revolution, was the 1905 revolution, which soviet historians see as test trial for the revolutionaries and a way for them to learn from their mistakes allowing the next revolution to be a success. It gave people of the masses, like the workers, experience in what a revolution would be like and by seeing what it is like lead to many supporting it the next time a revolution happened and then armed with the knowledge of how to support it. The idea of the 1917 revolution being a continuation of the 1905 revolution is a soviet idea as liberal historians disagree but soviet historians see it as another part of the process. This means they do not see Lenin as the reason as Dmitri Volkogonov stated Lenin went on to have "malign influence imbibed by all subsequent Soviet leaders."³ He was merely the one to do the inevitable if not him someone else would have at some point. In addition, the class struggle dealt with bringing down the imperialist nature of their government and at that time the Tsarist regime was the weakest link, which is why it became

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focal point for opposition of the government to target as after that fell it would lead to the rest being brought down as well.

This idea also means then that from a Soviet point of view Tsar Nicholas II's leadership was not to blame for the revolution. The revolution being inevitable means that it was not the fault of the individual, in this case the Tsar, but the society that he existed in which was going to lose its autocratic nature eventually because of the foundation it was built on. This being a society where people are divided into either proletariat or bourgeoisie eventually those being pushed down would rise up.

I question the soviet historian decision to place less emphasis on the First World War and instead view it as just an aspect of the already growing developments in Russia. They do however see the events that originated internally as important that happen to show the revolutionaries as a growing force to be reckoned with. This could be seen as the soviet historians being biased, as they want all the credit of the revolution to go to the Bolsheviks and have it be seen as an inevitable process instead of an event that only happened due to external events like the First World War. If this is to be believed then it may also be true that despite having access to many sources of information they only use the ones supporting their point of view. Also, the signs that soviet historians point to that show the country reaching the inevitable revolution can be countered through further research into similar situations in other countries. An example was the ever increasing amount of industrial strikes but as Pipes points out "the same Phenomenon occurred in England and the United States... yet neither had a revolution."¹

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2594 words

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Bibliography

- 1) Three Whys of the Russian Revolution (Richard Pipes)
- 2) Russia From Tsarism to the 21st Century (Robert Service)
- 3) Lenin A New Biography (Dmitri Volkogonov)
- 4) The Russian Revolution 1900-1927 (Robert Service)
- 5) Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991 (Orlando Figes)
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- 9) History Today Magazine Volume 63 : Romanov Russia on the eve of war
- 10) The Russian Revolution (1917) (YouTube video)
- 11) How the Russian Revolution is seen in Russia and the West, with Sheila Fitzpatrick (YouTube video)
- 12) The Russian Revolution #1 – The Spark. The Movements: A Podcast History of the Masses
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- 15) The Russian Revolution of 1917 and World History: A Centenary Reflection (Youtube video)
- 16) Overview of the Bolshevik Revolution (YouTube video)
- 17) Lenin and the Russian Revolution – Professor Catherine Merridale FBA (YouTube Video)
- 18) Pershing Lecture Series: The Russian Revolution – Sean N. Kalic and Gates Brown (YouTube Video)
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- 20) Lenin and the Russian Revolution (Christopher Hill)

Coursework resource record

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History				
Centre name:				
Candidate name:				
Resources used. The three works chosen for the assignment must be asterisked.	Page/web reference	Student comments	Student date(s) when accessed	Teacher initials and date resource record checked
<i>Russia from Tsarism to the 21st Century (Robert Service)</i> *		This book provides a useful overview of what took place in Russia during the Tsarist rule to beyond the Russian revolution. It informs on the internal and external factors that lead to the revolution happening.	Oct 2018	
<i>Lenin A New Biography (Dmitri Volkogonov)</i> *		This biography provides insight into the life of Lenin and what lead to his decisions and actions. It aims to disapprove the notion that Lenin was the key factor to the Revolution happening and without him may have not happened.	Nov 2018	
<i>Three Whys of the Russian Revolution (Richard Pipes)</i> *		Provides different explanations for how the Russian Revolution came to be using newly gathered information released by the Russian government. It views the strengths and weaknesses of each explaining what leads people to each explanation.	Nov 2018	

