

Script B

Centre Mark 24/40



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:
<p>State the examined options that are being taken:</p> <p>Paper 1: Britain 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement</p> <p>Paper 2: Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924</p> <p>Paper 3: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA: 1850-2009</p>	
Mark awarded	Comments [<i>Comment box expands as you start entering text</i>]
BP1 Low L4	Appropriate range of student identified reading. Some effective deployment to support points but not sustained and consistent enough for higher in level. Citing generally accurate and appropriate
BP2 High L3	Generally strong contextual JU and related to key issues. Some substantiation of points made throughout. Appropriate range of relevant issues identified and discussed
BP3 Low L4	Clear attempts to analyse views in chosen works and consideration shown to issues of interpretation. Clear understanding arguments of authors
BP4 High L3	Some criteria identified (both explicit and implicit) and some application but not always fully and consistently. Judgements on utility of interpretations are offered
BP5 Low L4	KU deployed effectively to support points and is strong throughout. Generally well organized and effectively communicated
24 marks	
Word count	3938

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.

Candidate signature		Date	
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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.

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The Russian Revolution refers to a collection of events that lead to the collapse of two regimes, Tsarism and the following Provisional Government, and the installation of the Bolshevik dictatorship for years to come. These events vary greatly in nature and impact, such as the social unrest that took form in riots and strikes throughout the urban districts and the economic crisis that was brought on by Russia attempting to compete with leading European powers such as Germany in the First World War. Radical groups such as the Bolsheviks sought to use these events as the catalyst to bring about wide spread political change and seize power.

BP2 context

A major factor for the February revolution would be the involvement of Russia in the First World War. Nicholas had hopes that the war situation would rally the Russian people behind him as he had at the outbreak of war with the Japanese in 1904. The Russians had previously lost the war against Japan and had to make humiliating concessions to the Japanese as a result, such as abandoning all activities in Manchuria. This means that the image of the Tsar as a strong and capable military leader was already fractured before the events of the First World War and people would be less likely to invest their hopes of a significant victory in him. Such beliefs would be substantiated when the Russians went on to lose a string of battles against the German army, one of the most prominent being the battle of Tannenberg in which the whole of the Russian second army was destroyed. These resounding defeats only served to substantiate the existing belief that the Tsarist government was crumbling and the Tsar himself was incapable of providing the proper leadership that would lead the nation through the war.

BP2 related issues being considered

As a result of the 'Great Retreat' in 1915, the Tsar left the front himself to take full command of all forces in an attempt to turn the tide and gain approval from the public, this act left the governing of the nation in terms of domestic policy to the Tsarina, Alexandra. She herself was subject to various rumours and gossip. One of the most significant being that the poor progress on the front was due to her being a German spy, this stemmed from her German heritage and only grew into prominence with each defeat. The situation was not helped by the fact that she was not well liked by a majority of the Russian people due to her criticisms of Russian society, going as far to call it decadent.

BP3 the end of the reign

Another subject that was focused on by rumours was the close relation between the supposed Holy man Rasputin and the royal family. The closeness between them stems from the fact that the Tsar's son, Alexi, had haemophilia. This was not known by the public which served to create suspicion over the relations of the royals and the holy man. The departure of the Tsar to the front lines gave the

perception to the Russian people that control of the nation was left to the Tsarina. While this may not have been the case because the Tsar was still involved in government proceedings, this was a fact not well known by the general population. Between 1915-16, constant changes were made to those in government positions, the end result was the image of chaos being projected to the people. This led to the amplification of the rumours that the Tsarina was actively attempting to sabotage the war effort by slowing down government proceedings which naturally lead to deep distrust.

AP2 amplification from being opposed throughout war

Despite the fact that the Tsar was at the frontlines he still took part in a small measure of running his nation. This did not help the situation as much as it should have due to the Tsars apparent ineptitude as a leader. He showed a tendency to employ heavily repressive measures in order to keep control of his nation throughout his reign, this is extremely evident from the number of shootings carried out by government forces on those who protested their way of life and work. Strong examples of these would include the events of 'Bloody Sunday' in 1905 and the Lena Goldfields massacre in 1912, which took 200 and 160 lives respectively¹. The continued use of such measures painted the Tsar in a negative manner, the fact that the protesters on 'Bloody Sunday' behaved in a peaceful manner but were still killed would give many the idea that force would be needed to achieve their demands and that there could be no reasoning with the Tsar if he was so willing to simply have any who oppose him, no matter how peacefully, shot.

A key reason for the insecurity of the Tsars policies was the fact that he was never intended to take the throne. This meant that the Tsar also showed a great unwillingness to compromise with those who protested for a more democratic Russia, the resentment from the public for this peaked after the introduction of the Fundamental Laws. This came after the Tsar made concession to the public in the form of the 1905 October Manifesto. The manifesto promised the Russian people limitations on the Tsars power, a constitution and a democratic body known as a Duma. Naturally the peoples hopes were dashed when the were laws introduced in 1906. Article 4 asserts that the "All-Russian Emperor possesses the supreme autocratic power." Other stipulations included the Tsars right to dissolve the Duma at any point he wanted and the fact that he did not have to take the Dumas wishes into account as they would have no legal power to enact laws, this led to a kind of stagnation in the Dumas as the Tsar dissolved it whenever dissenting opinions were brought up. The result of the laws was that people began to severely distrust what the Tsar promised, a key point of

*AP2
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¹ Revolutions in Early Modern and Modern Europe. (Page 300 for 'Bloody Sunday, Page 322 for Lena Goldfields Massacre.)

the speeches made by prominent radicals such as Trotsky. This meant that radical groups were able to further the idea that the Tsar could not be trusted to alleviate the issues the population put forward to him. Mounting social tension and the rapid increase in strikes and riots over the reign of Nicholas culminated in his abdication in February 1917. The resulting void in leadership was filled by a provisional government, which would carry out the duties of leadership until a constituent assembly could be elected and a constitution could be drawn up.

The definitive causes of the Russian revolution have been a subject of debate between historians of various intellectual schools of thought for years after the event took place, the most popular of these schools would be the Soviet, Liberal and Revisionist points of view.

The Soviet interpretation is associated with the official Soviet government that arose as a consequence of the October Revolution. Soviet historians typically advocate the notion that the seizure of power carried out by the Bolsheviks in October of 1917 was in accordance with the wishes of the Russian people and as such had the full popular support of the people. The doctrines of Marxism are emphasised greatly, as such it is commonplace for the historian to believe that some form of uprising would have taken place against the middle and upper classes in Russia, carried out by the peasants and workers who had been long exploited by these people, as such the actions undertaken by the Bolshevik party and Lenin acted as a catalyst for this uprising, speeding up the time taken to establish the ideal communist society. The key factor that undermined the Tsarist government in the eyes of the soviets was the inadequacy of the Tsar in terms of his domestic policy and management of the war effort. This in turn drew the anger of the people who would rise up against the tyranny of the Tsar to establish a new government run by the workers.

My chosen Soviet work is 'Lenin, life and legacy' (1994) written by Dimitri Volkogonov. Volkogonov was a high ranking officer in the Soviet military and was also the head of the Department of Psychological Warfare. This fact would make his account significantly less reliable due to the fact that an ulterior motive exists for him to twist facts in order to justify the existence of the Soviet Union through its armed takeover. Ranking in the Soviet Military was often determined by loyalty to the party so for Volkogonov to have achieved his rank it must have been determined at some point that he could be trusted to put forward information that conforms to the official state view. His rank would also place him in the unique position to access the Soviet archives, these archives were closed off to the public until the collapse of the USSR.

Volkogonov places emphasis on the poor performance of Russia during the First World War as being a reason for the downfall of the Tsar, he states 'the unsuccessful progress of the war and the weakness of the tsar'² was to blame. He places importance on the vast economic strain that were placed on the entirety of the Russian people, a key example being the inflation felt during the wartime years, the supply to urban areas in terms of foodstuffs had declined rapidly "prices rose Alarminglly as a result"³. Failure of the supply was due to the increased demands from the army as well as the fact that a majority of the rural communities responsible for maintaining the supply had either lost their workforce of young men to conscription or had been occupied by the advancing German army. Families that had relied on subsistence farming to get by also greatly suffered, often not producing enough for themselves and starving to death as a result.

To summarise, Soviet accounts of the events of the revolution tend to offer an extremely one-sided view which aims to portray the Bolsheviks as the saviours of the people who acted with the full support of the majority of the Russian people. Despite him not having a hand in the actual planning of the take over, Lenin is often portrayed at the catalyst for the revolution. The unwillingness of Soviet historians to publish works that are openly critical of the Bolsheviks actions and go against the official narrative of the state stems from the fact that the Soviet government would only allow approved material to be published inside their territory, those who attempted to were liable to arrest and, in extreme cases, execution. The threat of legal persecution and death would be enough for persuade those who did not necessarily support the state to publish works that push the governments narrative. In terms of Volkogonovs view however, I feel that he puts forward quite accurate information and I agree that the First World War was primarily to blame for the collapse of Tsarism.

Contrary to the view put forward by the Soviets, the revisionist interpretation typically focuses on key events that took place as well as their relation to the people as a whole. In this school, historical events are typically viewed in a 'from below' manner. This means that recognition is given to the vital role that was played by the ordinary Russian in terms of the emergence of a revolutionary society in 1917 Russia. The actions of groups such as the peasant farmers and the industrial workers are given a great deal of attention. Factors that are explored typically include the social and economic impacts that were dealt to the lower classes and the effect that these issues had on their perceptions of the Tsar as a protector of the common people as well as the Provisional Government

² Volkogonov, 1994, page 105

³ Revolutions in Early and Modern Europe, (Bullock, Page 326)

that was set up to replace the monarchy and prepare Russia to receive the Democratic system that they had so long sought after. The main reason for this emphasis is due to the influence that a unified voice of the people has on decisions that are made in Government. The will of the people is the deciding factor as to who holds power in a democratic system. The fact that polls for the constituent assembly placed the Bolshevik votes at 23.5%⁴ clearly reflects that they never held the full support of the people. ✓

My chosen revisionist work is 'Russia, from Tsarism to the 21st Century' (Penguin 2015), written by Robert Service. Service is widely regarded as 'one of Britain's best-known experts on Russia'⁵. He was educated at Cambridge and worked as a Professor at Oxford University until 2013, his works often include large criticisms of the actions of Lenin, the legitimacy of the Soviet regime as well as the Marxist theory that acted as the ideological foundation of the Bolshevik movement. He is, at the time of writing, one of the few western historians to have gained access to the previously locked Soviet archives which means he is among the few who are able to give a detailed and well informed account and explain action of the events that took place in 1917. His background is important to note as it reinforces his ability to give a impartial analysis of events and their outcomes. BPS 15 years of liberation

Straight away, Service states that the impact of the Russian involvement in the First World War 'produced a situation in Russia that resulted in the shattering of the Tsars regime as a whole'⁶. As a result, Service argues that the lack of long term, significant gains through out the war by the Russian army under the direct control of the Tsar (and later the provisional government who would suffer from the same issues as Nicholas) lead to the abdication of the Tsar in February 1917 due to the mounting strikes, riots and protests that took place across major urban centres in Russia. Service states that it is a common misconception that a majority of the Russian people were against war and wished for an end to it and that 'all classes supported Russian entry into the war'⁷ wished for a leading body that would see them through to victory. However, it has been shown that the enthusiasm shown by the people for the war changes with the situation that the person is in, those who belonged to the poorer classes and lived in the rural areas dedicated to agriculture were more likely to seek an end to the war one way or another due to the harsh conditions it had given them. rural communities were subject to conscription and lost young, able bodied men from their farms. They did not receive as much help from the government as priory in terms of food, equipment and BPS 15 years of liberation

⁴ Revolutions in Early and Modern Europe (Bullock, 2015, page 354)

⁵ www.alphahistory.com (31st Oct 2018)

⁶ Service, 2015, page 26

⁷ Service, 2015, page 26 BPS 15 years of liberation

finance as priority was given to the soldiers. In contrast, the middle and upper classes tended to favour a continuation of the war and to see it to its end. This related to the notion of patriotism that was more prevalent in the richer and more educated portion of the population which encompassed the likes of the Kulaks, monarchists and wealth factory owners. They viewed ideas of peace with Germany as a sign of weakness, something that the early Bolshevik government would be criticised for. Desertion in the Russian army was observed in large quantities, the only binding factor that kept most in line was the threat of harsh punishments and executions. This means that you start to see a stark dynamic form between the classes in terms of war fervour which definitely contests the idea put forward by Service.

For the civilian population, they found themselves constantly in a situation where there was not enough food, medicine or equipment. Service states that 'sufficient foodstuffs regularly reached the forces on the eastern front'⁸, the consequence of this, however, was that the rest of the population went without. This lack of care given to the people led to widespread riots and strikes throughout the nation, these riots would culminate into the bread riots of that would open the Tsar's eyes to the seriousness of the situation that he had long dismissed due to his notion that the majority of the population was devoted to him. The riots were often in such a scale that the garrison units of major cities would offer no resistance or simply just fire into crowds, doing nothing to calm the situation, many would have over weapon stockpiles and join in on the protest. Which served to further the concept that the tsar had completely lost the support of his people.

External factors and their impact on the leadership shown by the Tsar and Provisional Government are given the most attention, the effects that these factors had on internal ones such as the different classes in the population are also apparent, as such this makes the revisionist interpretation a stark contrast to that of the Soviet school, which focuses solely on the Tsar's shortcomings as the main deciding factor. Little insight is given by Service as to the exact reasons for the downfall of the following Provisional Government, which is unfortunate due to the fact that, fundamentally, it is the more significant of the two due to the fact that it brought about the most radical change to the Russian government.

The Liberal school of thought is typically viewed at the polar opposite to that of the Soviet interpretation. Most liberal historians are characterised by their open hostility toward anything that can be associated with Marxist theory and Communism, harsh criticism is dealt to those who

⁸ Service, 2015, page 28.

attempt to support or justify the actions of the Bolshevik party and the tenants of Communism. A prominent event that most take issue with is the fact that the Red Guard were used to surround the Winter Palace in Petrograd and laid siege to it in order to force the Provisional Government ministers inside to surrender their authoritative power to the Leaders of the Bolshevik Party. This action is significantly focused on as it fully undermines the democratic process of power allocation. The Bolsheviks did not attain enough votes to justify a majority in the constituent assembly. As such their claims of acting in the interests of the Russian people would be false. The interpretation saw its height in popularity during the Cold War era, which was marked with constant clashes between western Capitalism and eastern Communism in every way from scientific achievements to their respective economic growth. As such it is quite accurate to say that the interpretation is forged from the stigmas born from the Cold War, where each nations respective peoples were raised to believe that the other was the embodiment of evil and had to be fought where ever the other existed.

BP5
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rather
be
disputed

One of the most prominent Liberal historians is Richard Pipes, who wrote my chosen work for the liberal interpretation, 'Three whys of the Russian Revolution' (Pimlico 1995). Pipes was of Polish decent, which is important to note due to the harsh treatment that they, as well as other Eastern European nations. As such he is prone to criticism and outright hostility toward the Communist Ideology, this hatred caused him to be selected by the U.S Government to acts as a Cold War security advisor and to also lead a committee dedicated to the evaluation and analysis of Soviet weapons technology and its development. He is recorded to have described Lenin as a 'political thief' who stole power from the Provisional Government at its weakest point.

BP5 makes
of
interpretation

Pipes (1995) introduces the idea that a range of factors of varying natures all collectively contributed to the weakening of the Tsarist regime over time and its eventual collapse. A key feature of these factors is the fact that they are defined by the different timespans that they take place in. The three types he describes are the 'longue Duree', which refers to events that effect the condition of the monarchy over a long span of time, an example of such a factor would be the pre existing flaws in the way the monarchy conducted its business before the time that Nicholas would take the throne, for example the method in which decisions were made left little opportunity for the poorer classes to have a voice, which would sow discontent among them as the decisions made concerned them just as much as the rich. The next type concerned the 'intermediate span', which usually refer to the actions of key individuals and the effect that they had on the political and social climates, in terms of Lenin, he was able to stir the population and push them to riots and strikes which would plague the Governments throughout the period. Finally, the shortest of the factors were 'accidents'. This refers

BP5
continued
analysis
of period.

to split second events and decisions whose effects become apparent in the near future, for example, the failure of police forces to apprehend Lenin on his way back to the main Bolshevik centre after his return from exile would enable him to continue his agitation.

Deviation from the previous interpretations occurs when Pipes makes the point that he does not believe that the regime's collapse was due to the weakening effect that the First World War had. He states that many, Lenin included, believed that the regime was strong, evidenced by the fact that various foreign powers were willing to invest heavily in Russia's securities and that no one could foresee the imminent fall of the Russian monarchy. Pipes makes the point that he believes that the actions of 'Radical intellectuals'⁹ caused a shift in the opinion of the public in such a manner that resulted in their 'wholesale rejection' of the political system in place. The *Longue duree* cause is focused on here as Pipes believes that the bureaucratic nature of the monarchy was a systematic weakness that made the regime vulnerable. Concessions that were promised by the Tsar to his *APS were advancement of Junker and agrarians being offered land* propel as a means of quickly 'cooling' the tension were revoked soon afterwards in an attempt to retain as much of his power as possible and to appease the loyal monarchists who would lose out in the reduction of royal power.

AP's differences between interpretations
When compared to the Soviet and Revisionist interpretations, the liberal view focuses on a much broader range of causes in terms of their time span, nature and overall effect, made evident by the lack of analysis of the actual system used by the monarchy from the previous two views. The liberal and Revisionist views tend to be the most flexible and diverse in the causes they consider as the *AP's 4 causes*

Soviet view is very much restricted to material that was approved by the Soviet government. *AP 2 clear present offer of land*
However I would tend to value the opinion put forward by Revisionist scholars due to the fact that the interpretation offers a middle ground between the other two. The Liberal and Soviet views are quite restricted in the factors they consider due to the stigmas of the nations they are associated with. *AP 4*
✓ With respect to the Liberal and Soviet views however, I would rank the former as more reliable in terms of the information they put forward despite the obvious motives that a majority of historians would have. This is due to the fact that liberal historians were not legally obligated to follow a pre-determined narrative by their government for a long period of time.

3938 words in total excluding bibliography

⁹ Pipes 1995 page 16

BP1
low L4

appropriate range of student identified reading. Some effective strategies to support growth but not sustained and consistent for higher in level. Many generally accurate and appropriate.

BP2
high L3

generally strong knowledge of the and related to issues. Some substitution of growth made throughout. Appropriate range of relevant issues identified and discussed.

BP3
low L4

Clear attempts to analyse cases in class context and consideration given to ~~issues~~ of interpretation. Clear consistency of approach of answers.

BP4
high L3

Some evidence identified (both explicit and implicit) and use application but not always fully and consistently. Judgement on validity of interpretations more apparent.

BP5
low L4.

Less developed attempting to support points and is strong throughout. Generally well organized and effectively communicated.

Bibliography:

*API page of nearly appropriate
+ identified by student
All work independent*

Books:

'Lenin, life and legacy' (1994) Dimitri Volkogonov
'Russia, from Tsarism to the 21st Century' (Penguin 2015) Robert Service
'Three Why's of the Russian Revolution' (Plimco 1995) Richard Pipes
Edexcel Revolutions in Early and Modern Europe
'Russia and Revolutions: Russia 1881-1924' Micheal Lynch
'About Russia, its Revolutions, its developments and its Present' Micheal Reiman (Peter Lang AG 2016)

Documentaries:

'The Russian Revolution' BBC https://youtu.be/zXHbEb4b_o (23/2/2019)
'The Real Story of The Russian Revolution' DesertHome <https://youtu.be/Db67DnAk9FA> (22/2/2019)

Websites:

www.britannica.com <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution-of-1917> (20/11/2018)

www.bbc.co.uk <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/41904621> (20/1/2019)

www.alphahistory.com <https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/historian-robert-service/>
<https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/historian-richard-pipes/>
<https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/historian-dmitri-volkogonov/>
(23rd October 2018 (all))

www.History.com <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution> (22/2/19)

www.Nationalgeographic.com <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/archaeology-and-history/magazine/2017/09-10/russian-revolution-history-lenin/> (22/2/19)

Videos: (YouTube)

'Russian Revolution in 10 minutes' John D Ruddy <https://youtu.be/dGNaSgZgUAs> (20/2/2019)

'The Russian Revolution (1917) Simple History' <https://youtu.be/KOK1TMSyKcM> (01/12/2018)

'Ten Minute History - The Russian Revolution (Short Documentary) History Matters' <https://youtu.be/ZZ55ZvBe07U> (22/2/2019)

'The Russian October Revolution 1917' The Great War <https://youtu.be/2uoLosVCKls> (1/12/2019)

'The Revolution that Shaped Russia' National Geographic <https://youtu.be/OHZ3Qww9kIY> (22/2/2019)

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	
'Lenin, life and legacy' (1994)* Dimitri Volkogonov	105-106 Book	This is my chosen work in order to represent the Soviet historical interpretation, within this book, Volkogonov challenges some aspects of the traditional Soviet view while maintaining that a key aspect of the fall of Tsarism was the Russian shortcomings during their participation in World War One.	16 th Oct 2018		
'Russia, from Tsarism to the 21 st century' (penguin 2015)* Robert Service	24-40 Book	This is my chosen work for the Revisionist viewpoint. Within, Service puts forward his argument that World War One set up a situation in Russia that would bring the monarchy to collapse, he puts a focus on the actions of the peasant and worker masses and the fact that the factions that wanted power in Russia had to have them on their side or at least appear to have them as allies.	4 th sep 2018		
'Three whys of the Russian revolution' (Pimlico, 1995)* Richard Pipes	3-30 Book	This is my chosen work for the Liberal point of view, its is within that Pipes outlines his system of classifying various factors that he feels all contributes towards the fall of Tsarism in Russia, he refers to 'longue duree' intermediate	July 2018		

		span and accidents all having an effect on the weakening and breakdown of the monarchy.			
'Russia and Revolutions: Russia 1881-1924' Micheal Lynch	62-74 Book	I mainly used this book in order to fact check most of what the three major authors said in their works as Lynch includes a substantial amount of statistics within this books such as his table outlining the results of the elections for the constituent assembly. However it lacks a substantial evaluate of these statistics.	22/2/19		
Edexcel 'Revolutions in Early and Modern Europe' Oliver Bullock, Dan Nuttal, Alan White	310-357 Book	This book is the Edexcel A level course textbook, as such is is valuable in the fact that it contains purely statistical evidence in which I was able to build my own viewpoint on as well as evaluate the opinions put forward in my choose works.	July 2018		
'About Russia, its Revolutions, its developments and its Present' Micheal Reiman (Peter Lang AG 2016) Pages 13-23.	13-23 Book	I used only the first chapter of this book for my work due to it being focused on the revolution itself as most of the book is focused on events that occur afterwards. A good deal of focus is given to the feelings of workers and soldiers by the author, the competency of the provisional government is also questioned.	23/2/19		

