

## Option 30: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

### Key topic 1: The revolutions of 1917

<b>1 The growth of opposition to the tsar Russia in early 1917</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Threats to the tsarist regime:</del> Growing discontent among peasants and town workers <del>and the growth of opposition.</del></li> <li>The impact of the First World War: military defeats; economic, political and social effects; the Tsar as commander-in-chief.</li> </ul>
<b>2 The February Revolution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Triggers for revolt—the immediate reasons for the February Revolution:</del></li> <li>The immediate reasons for the February Revolution: Events in Petrograd in February 1917, including strikes and the mutiny in the army. The Tsar's absence and abdication.</li> </ul>
<b>3 The Provisional Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The establishment of the Provisional Government and the problems it faced, including 'Dual Control' and Soviet Order Number 1. The role of Kerensky.</li> <li>The weaknesses and failures of the Provisional Government.</li> <li>The significance of the Kornilov Revolt.</li> </ul>
<b>4 The Bolshevik Revolution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lenin's return and activities, including the April Theses and the growth in support for the Bolshevik Party. The 'July Days'.</li> <li>The Bolshevik seizure of power in October 1917. The reasons for their success. The roles of Trotsky and Lenin.</li> </ul>

#### Subtopic 1

1. Growth of opposition moved from bp1 into subtopic heading to clarify the focus of the subtopic.

2. Bp1 simplified by removing 'threats to the Tsarist regime' because it is part of the growth of opposition and so redundant.

#### Subtopic 2

Bp1 and 2 merged and 'triggers for revolution' removed as it is redundant.

#### Subtopic 3

'including 'Dual Control and Soviet Order number 1' added to bp1. This is already implied by the content, but has been added to make them explicit.

### Key topic 2: The Bolsheviks in power, 1917–24

<b>1 Early consolidation of power, 1917–18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The early Bolshevik decrees of November–December 1917.</li> <li>The removal of opposition, including the Constituent Assembly and the execution of Tsar Nicholas II and his family.</li> <li>The reasons for, main terms, and significance of, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Different reactions in Russia to the Treaty.</li> </ul>
<b>2 The Civil War, 1918–21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reasons for, key events and effects of the Civil War.</li> <li>The reasons for the Bolshevik victory, including the strengths of the Bolsheviks, role of Trotsky, foreign intervention and the weaknesses of the Whites.</li> </ul>
<b>3 Moves towards totalitarianism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Red Terror and the role of the Cheka. The Kronstadt Mutiny.</li> <li>Bolshevik centralisation, including the role of Lenin and the Politburo. Setting up of the USSR.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Economic and social change, 1918–24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons for, and features of, War Communism. Reasons for its unpopularity.</li> <li>Reasons for, and features of, the New Economic Policy. Different reactions to the NEP. Its effects on the economy, 1921–24.</li> <li>Social changes, including the impact of Bolshevik policies on women, education and culture.</li> </ul>

### Key topic 3: Stalin's rise to power and dictatorship, 1924–41

<b>1 The struggle for power, 1924–28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The strengths and weaknesses of Stalin and his rivals (Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev and Bukharin).</li><li>• The <u>reasons for the</u> emergence of Stalin as leader of the USSR, <u>including</u> the removal of rivals for the leadership in the years 1924–28.</li></ul>
<b>2 The use of terror in the 1930s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The reasons for, nature of and consequences of the purges, including the purges of the armed forces.</li><li>• The work of the secret police (NKVD); the use of, and conditions in, the labour camps.</li><li>• The reasons for, and the importance of, the show trials of 1936–1938.</li></ul>
<b>3 Propaganda and censorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Official culture, socialist realism, control of education and religion. Media censorship.</li><li>• The new Constitution of 1936</li></ul>
<b>4 The Cult of Stalin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meaning of the Cult of Stalin and reasons for its introduction.</li><li>• How the Cult of Stalin was achieved.</li></ul>

#### Subtopic 1

1. 'reasons for' added before 'emergence of Stalin' to make explicit that it is this that needs to be studied and not other aspects of his emergence as leader.
2. Colon replaced by 'including' to emphasise that this is not the only reason.

### Key topic 4: Economic and social changes, 1924–41

<b>1 Agriculture and collectivisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stalin's reasons for changes in agriculture, including the problems of the NEP.</li><li>• The organisation of collectives, mechanisation, widespread opposition and the attack on the kulaks. Famine in <del>the</del> Ukraine.</li><li>• The successes and failures of collectivisation.</li></ul>
<b>2 Changes in industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stalin's motives for rapid industrialisation, including the failings of the NEP.</li><li>• Gosplan, Five-Year Plans and the Stakhanovite Movement.</li><li>• The successes and failures of industrialisation.</li></ul>
<b>3 Life in the Soviet Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Living and working conditions in towns and the countryside.</li><li>• The differing experiences of social groups.</li></ul>
<b>4 The position of women and ethnic minorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes in family life and employment and the political position of women.</li><li>• Reasons for, and features of, the persecution of ethnic minorities.</li></ul>

#### Subtopic 1

'the Ukraine' changed to 'Ukraine'.