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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2023

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced  
Level in History (WHI01/1B)

Paper 1B: Russia in Revolution: 1881-1917

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Candidates chose two questions from four, with the most popular being Question 2, followed by Question 4, then 2 and finally 3.

#### Question 1

Candidates who answered this question were able to consider the issue raised by the question and make judgements about the positive impact of Witte and his policies. There was a clear understanding that not all areas for economic development were covered by Witte, particularly his neglect of light industries and agriculture.

#### Question 2

Candidates who answered this question tended to agree with the issue raised by the question. However, there were other reasons considered and balanced in candidate judgments. Some saw the Duma as important but felt its lack of real power meant that Tsarist power recovered due to other reasons. The use of repression further heavily and the divided nature of the opposition revolutionary groups.

#### Question 3

Most candidates who answered this question considered a range of factors in relation to the issue raised by the question. Many explained well the political chaos, but balanced it with economic chaos when making their judgements.

#### Question 4

Many candidates really focused on the issue raised by the question. Russia's continued involvement was seen as a major problem for the Provisional Government. However, some candidates considered other problems such as dual power, issues around elections, the Bolsheviks and the land question. Some candidates wanted the question to be more about why the Provisional Government failed and ignored the actual issue and view raised by the question.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.
- When judgments are made they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.

