

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Study Source 1 in the Sources Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1 (a) Why is Source 1 valuable to the historian for an enquiry into the reasons for Lenin's dismissal of the Constituent Assembly in January 1918?

Explain your answer using the source, the information given about it and your own knowledge of the historical context.

(10)

Source 1 is valuable to the historian for our enquiry into the reasons for Lenin's dismissal of the Constituent Assembly for many reasons.

Firstly, the source was written by Lenin himself who is in a good position to know why he would dismiss the Constituent Assembly. Secondly, the source is a 'Draft Decree' suggesting that he put thought into the source and it was agreed upon by other members of the Communist Party.

Thirdly the source gives evidence that the Constituent Assembly would retract the power earned by the Soviets in the October Revolution ("It would now be a step backwards to surrender the supreme authority of the Soviets to the Constituent



Assembly"). Fourthly the source contains evidence that the Constituent Assembly would not support the Bolsheviks as the "Right Socialist-Revolutionaries obtained majority in Constituent Assembly" (a political party that... opposed the Bolsheviks). Fifthly the source insinuates that the Constituent Assembly would not be representative of the revolution and its hope to have a Soviet government (line 10 to 12). Sixthly the source has evidence that only the Soviets - along with the Bolsheviks - can bring communism (lines 4 to 6) to Russia.

The evidence provided by the source is in accordance with Lenin's ideology. He wanted a government based on the principles of Marxism where "propertied classes" were removed and workers and peasants would lead. His Bolshevik party had not gotten a majority in the Constituent Assembly's elections and so Lenin wanted to dissolve the Assembly to continue to lay his "foundations of a socialist society".



Due to the accurate and first hand
quality of the source ^{regarding} ~~for~~ ^{research} Lenin's dismissal
of the Constituent Assembly, source I is
valuable for a historians enquiry.

