



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International
Advanced Level In History (WHI01)

Paper 1B: Russia in Revolution, 1818-1917

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The entry for this paper saw an increase based on the last series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was reasonably well answered. Candidates showed a range of knowledge in relation to the influence of Pobedonostsev and balanced it with other factors, such as the weakness of opposition, the role of repression, the Church and the appeal of nationalism. Some candidates saw the question as an opportunity to describe the work of Tsars in the years 1881-1903. Those candidates who gave criteria in relation to their judgements scored highly.

Question 2

This question was well answered with many candidates deciding that the impact of the war with Japan was the main reason after considering against other reasons. However, some suggested that while it played its part there were other reasons that were more important. Many saw the events around January 1905 as the most important. Some candidates decided that there were long term and short term reasons and made this as the basis of their criteria for judgement.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. Many displayed a lot of precise knowledge in relation to the role of Rasputin. However, many saw the decisions made by the Tsar as the main reason why Romanov rule ended. Many also saw the war itself a catalyst, which led to some interesting judgements, many of which were supported by criteria.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. There was a lot of knowledge about what the Provisional Government did and did not do. However, the issue in the question was not always addressed or analysed. Those that did make judgements around the significance of the Armistice in relation to other features scored in the higher level.

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 or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.

