

# Transition materials for A Level History

**Russia 1855 - 1964**



# Introduction

**So you are considering studying History at A level...**

Welcome to the A level History pack preparing you to start your A level History course.

This pack contains a step by step programme of activities and resources created to prepare you for the academic demands of A level History study.

All activities are aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE exams and should be completed in stages throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

If you would like any further information on AS Tsarist and Communist Russia, please speak to Miss Swift. 😊

## **Component 1 – Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964**

### **What's assessed?**

The study in breadth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.

### **Assessed**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>AS level</b>= Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes</li><li>• 2 questions (one compulsory)</li><li>• 50 marks</li><li>• 50% of AS</li><li>• 50 minutes on Section A and 40 minutes on Section B</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A level</b>= Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes</li><li>• 3 questions (one compulsory)</li><li>• 80 marks</li><li>• 40% of A level</li><li>• 60 minutes on Section A and 45 minutes on each of the 2 questions in Section B</li></ul>
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### **Questions**

- 2 sections
- Section A= 1 compulsory question will ask to look at interpretations of a specific historical context (AS=25 A Level=30 marks)
- Section B= AS= 1 from 2 essays= 25 marks or A Level=2 from 3 essays= 2x 25 marks

### **Assessment objectives for component 1**

- **AO1:** Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring

concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

- **AO2 (THIS IS NOT RELEVANT TO COMPONENT 1):** Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within the historical context.
- **AO3:** (Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, different ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted).

### **Answering source question in Section A**

- **AS level= With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of....**
- **A level= Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to....**

AS level requires comparison of sources and an overall judgement. Which one is most convincing?

For each source you must split it into sections:

1. Pick out parts of the argument that are convincing – Back this up with your own knowledge
2. Pick out parts of the argument you disagree with or pick out arguments it misses out.

YOU DO THIS FOR BOTH SOURCES THEN MAKE A CONCLUSION AS TO WHICH IS MOST CONVINCING BY COMPARING THE SOURCES AND COMING TO AN OVERALL JUDGEMENT.

### **Answering essay/s question in Section B**

**AS Level – Essay question will contain a quotation advancing a judgement, and could be followed by ‘explain why you agree or disagree with this view.**

**A Level – The essay questions require analysis and judgement, and could include ‘How successful...’ or ‘To what extent...’ or ‘How far...’ or a quotation offering a judgement followed by ‘Assess the validity of this view’**

### **OUTLINE OF TOPICS – Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964**

This option is one of the breadth studies that AQA offers, and as such covers over 100 years. The content is divided up into two parts:

**Part 1 is just for those who do the AS and covers 1855-1917**

**Those doing the full A Level will do Part 1 (1855-1917) and Part 2 (1917-1964) thus covering the full 100 year time period.**

### **Part 1: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia 1855-1917 – WHAT YOU WILL COVER IN YEAR 12**

**This part covers the reigns of the last three tsars – Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II. The context of this period is that Russia was going through enormous change due to the emancipation of the serfs in 1861 and due to the need to industrialise and modernise Russian economy. Part 1 is split into sub sections**

#### **Trying to preserve autocracy – 1855-1894**

- Russian society in the middle of the nineteenth century (including the impact of the Crimean War in the trigger for change.
- Alexander II and his reforms (Specifically the role of the emancipation of the Serfs)
- Reaction and revolutionaries.
- Alexander III and his counter-reforms
- Challenge to the tsarist rule (Including types of opposition) and how this was dealt with.
- The ideas of the revolutionaries
- Economic and social developments due to tsarist rule.
- Social divisions of the nobles and peasantry.
- Cultural influence of the Church.
- Problems that remained in Russia after the death of Alexander III

#### **The collapse of autocracy – 1894-1917**

- Political authority under Nicholas II
- Events of the 1905 revolution
- The era of the Dumas

- Industrial transformation and developments in agriculture (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)
- Social developments, mainly in regards to working conditions in towns
- Cultural changes in Russia (Women, education etc)
- Opposition to Nicholas II including the ideas and ideologies of opposition (Marxism, socialism, liberalism)
- Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in Wartime.
- Political developments of 1917 Wartime Russia.
- The Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of the Bolshevik government by December 1917.
- Was autocracy a failure? Summary

# Reading List

## Books – Non Fiction

- **Russian History: A very short introduction: Geoffrey Hosking** – This book discusses all aspects of Russian history, from the struggle by the state to control society to the transformation of the nation into a multi-ethnic empire, Russia's relations with the West, and the post-Soviet era.
- **Stalin: A Biography: Robert Service** – A full assessment of Stalin from his early years in Georgia, his youthful activism, his relationship with Lenin, his family and his party members.
- **The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction** – S.A Smith – This focusses on the main events and developments in Soviet Russia between 1917 – 1936.

## Books – Fiction

- **The Road of Bones: Fine, Anne** - Based on life in Russia under Stalin, it is a fable about the nature of totalitarianism. It reveals how power corrupts and how quickly the oppressed can become the oppressors.
- **Natasha's Will: Joan Lingard** - A dangerous journey into exile during the Russian Revolution. When Natasha's grandfather is arrested in St Petersburg in 1917, her aristocratic family are forced to flee for their lives.
- **Animal Farm: A Fairy Story: George Orwell** – A well- known classic story detailing the events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

## **Films**

- **The Romanovs – An Imperial Family** – A Russian film with subtitles, set in 1917 focussing on the last days of Tsar Nicholas II and the rest of the Romanov family.
- **Enemy at the Gates** – Set in 1942, in the Battle of Stalingrad, the main character, Vasily Zaytsev (played by Jude Law), becomes the poster boy for the Red Army due to his sniper skills.
- **Animal Farm** – The cartoon version of the book, showing the events leading up to the Russian Revolution.
- **Child 44** – Featuring Tom Hardy, the film follows a disgraced member of the Russian military police. Charged with investigating a series of child murders during the Stalin era, where supposedly this sort of crime doesn't exist.

- **Bridge of Spies** – Featuring Tom Hanks, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court, and organise an exchange of the spy for a captured American pilot.
- **Goodbye Lenin** – Although not set within the time parameter of the topic, this comedy focusses on a young man who has to protect his fragile Mother who has come out of a long coma from a fatal shock that Communism has ended.
- **The Death of Stalin-** Comedy set after Stalin's death in 1953, it follows the power struggle for the next Soviet leader.

**Useful link** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zq7qtfr/resources/1>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/russia/>

# Independent Research

## **1855-1905 – Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas II**

**Task:** Create a one page fact file on each Tsar.

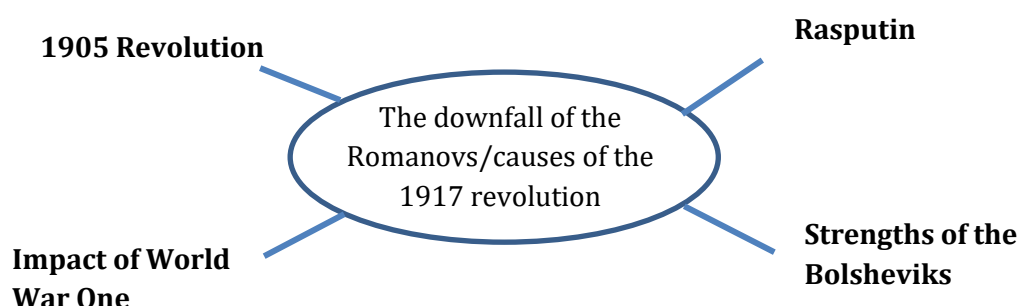
**Each should include:** Name, reign, family background, events during his reign, impact, end of reign, death.

## **1905-1917 – The downfall of the Romanovs**

**Task:** Watch the documentary below start at 27 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/gSIVgtwAcRA?t=27m6s>

Create a mind map using the following headings:





## **1917-1924 – The Bolshevik early years**

**Task:** Consider the questions below:

1. Why was Lenin so popular in 1917?
2. Name 3 events that happened between 1917 and 1924.
3. Did Lenin remain popular?

## **1924-1934 – Stalin comes to power**

**Task:** Create a fact file on Josef Stalin.

**Include:** Early life, political beliefs before 1917, role in 1917 revolution, role in Bolshevik party.

## **1934-1953 – The Terror!**

**Task:**

1. Look up the role of the NKVD in Russia under Stalin
2. Investigate the interrogation techniques used by the NKVD
3. What do you think it was like to live under Stalin?

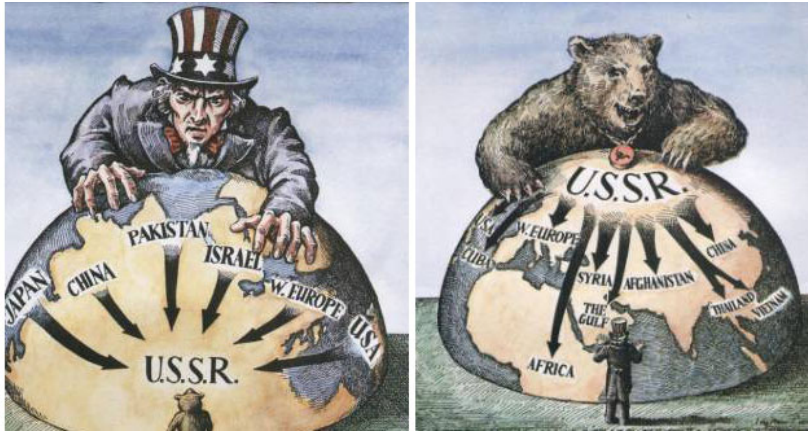
## **1953-1964 – Khrushchev and the Cold War**

**Task:**

1. Read through Khrushchev's speech to Congress delivered 25 February 1956 at the Twentieth Congress. Why do you think this speech had such a big impact?

<http://www.historyinanehour.com/2013/02/25/khrushchevs-secret-speech-text/>

2. Look up the definition of foreign policy. What do you think the cartoonist's opinion was, about foreign policy of the USSR and the USA?



## Required Knowledge and Skills

### Key Pre Knowledge topics

1. **Fact File of Russia** – Research the situation in modern day Russia including the following facts:
  - Population
  - Capital
  - Flag
  - Currency
  - Border countries
  - Border continents
  - President
  - Land area
  - Ethnic make-up
  - Religions
  - Languages
2. **Russian Map work** – Print off a colour A4 map of Russia. Locate and mark the following:
  - St Petersburg
  - Moscow

- Novgorod
- Arctic Ocean
- Siberian Plane and Peninsula
- Ural Mountains

3. **Glossary of key terms** – Create a glossary of the following words:

- Tsar
- Liberalism
- Revolution
- Intelligentsia
- Serf
- Serfdom
- Zemstva
- Emancipation
- Taxation
- Autocracy

- Capitalism
- Assassination
- Bolshevik
- Menshevik
- Cheka
- Soviets
- New Economic Policy
- Politburo
- Proletariat
- Bourgeoisie
- Collectivisation
- Gulag
- Totalitarian
- Slav
- Communism

# Baseline Assessment

## **Task 1 – Historian’s opinion**

'The emancipation had to be, he knew it, but he did not like it' Crankshaw, 2000

Write a paragraph on what this historian’s opinion might be on the reforms that Nicholas brought in.

## **Task 2 – Essay writing**

You will need to complete two essays based on the research you have done. The questions and suggested structure are below:

1. “Tsar Nicholas II was an effective leader”. How far do you agree with this statement?
2. “Stalin was a ruthless dictator” How far do you agree with this statement?

Suggested structure:

Four paragraphs (two arguing each side), and a conclusion.

# The World is out there...

1. **Pushkin House** – Visit Pushkin House in central London as it is the Russian culture centre in London. <http://www.pushkinhouse.org/>
2. **London Walks** – Visit this website to find a variety of monuments/buildings and shops - <http://london-walks.rbth.com/>
3. **Highgate cemetery** – Visit Highgate cemetery in Highgate, North London to visit the figurehead of Communism, Karl Marx's grave.
4. **The Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies** – This library and cultural centre promotes knowledge of the culture, language and history of Russia and the former Soviet Union. The SCRSS is based in London and has a list of current activities on its' website - <http://www.scrss.org.uk/>
5. **The Kompass** – This website is “your pass to all things Russian in the U.K” - <http://thekompass.rbth.co.uk/>
6. **Royal Air Force Museum** – Visit the National Cold War exhibition in Shropshire for a comprehensive study of Cold War artefacts. <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/things-to-see-and-do/hangars/cold-war.aspx>
7. **Theatre** – Animal Farm – This is regularly performed in and around London.

