



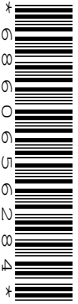
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Y318/01 Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964

Friday 9 June 2017 – Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any **two** questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing about the reasons why the Provisional Government was overthrown. [30]

Passage A

The collapse of tsardom had left a power vacuum. Although the Provisional Government held office between February and October 1917 it never held power. It lacked the ruthlessness that the desperate situation demanded. The Provisional Government failed to appreciate the common view on the land question. It had been a chief role in peasant unrest since the emancipation of the serfs. When the government failed to carry out a major land redistribution the peasants in many parts of Russia took the law into their own hands and seized the property of local landlords. Disturbances in the countryside occurred daily in 1917. It would be appropriate to describe this as a national peasants' revolt. The Provisional Government had no real answer to the land problem.

Unable to fight the war successfully and unwilling to introduce the reforms that might have given it popular support, the Provisional Government tottered towards collapse...The failure of the Provisional Government followed from its political failure over the previous eight months. It was not that the Provisional Government had been bitterly rejected by the Russian people. It was more a matter of its inability to arouse genuine enthusiasm. Kerensky's government had come nowhere near to solving Russia's problems. Its support had evaporated. Economically incompetent and militarily incapable, the Provisional Government was not worth saving.

Adapted from M. Lynch, *From Autocracy to Communism Russia 1894–1941*, published in 2008.

Passage B

Strikes [in factories] reached a new height in September 1917. They revealed that the workers no longer believed in the capacity of the government to honour its pledges or in the willingness of factory owners to negotiate in good faith. The collapse of production, lock-outs, unemployment and violence profoundly changed the nature of the strike. For three days in September, a strike by 700,000 railway workers paralysed transportation; in mid-October 300,000 workers struck at textile factories in Ivanovo. They often led to violent confrontations that increased the breakdown of law and order (already marked by a rise in looting, physical violence and street justice). Strikes became the workers' main form of political participation. The workers' anger and aspirations provided the primary drive for early Soviet power – even if, ultimately, the Bolsheviks were to subvert the workers' impulses for their own gain.

On 23 October, by a 10–2 vote, the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party endorsed Lenin's theses on seizing power. Meanwhile, the Petrograd Soviet made a tactical decision of great practical significance when it established the 'Military Revolutionary Committee'. This Bolshevik dominated body became the command centre during the November Revolution.

The Bolsheviks brilliantly exploited the situation...and on the night of 24 October, began seizing key centres of power in Petrograd. As Kerensky fled, the Bolsheviks began constructing a new state order.

Adapted from G. L. Freeze, *Russia: A History*, published in 2009.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** “Lenin advanced the rights of the nationalities more than any other leader in the period from 1855 to 1964.” How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 3*** How far do you agree that the Crimean War had a greater impact on the economy of Russia in the period 1855–1964 than any other war? **[25]**
- 4*** To what extent did the Fundamental Laws of 1906 change Russian government more than any other event in the period 1855–1964? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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