

2018

5 **How important was the Russo-Japanese War as a cause of the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer.**

**YES** In 1904 Russia went to war against Japan – many including the Tsar thought this would be an easy victory; defeats on land and at sea; in 1905 the Russian fleet was sunk by a smaller nation; caused a drop in morale amongst troops and population; many blamed the Tsar and his government; many peasants were in the army which caused food shortages at home; led to miserable living and working conditions for peasants and workers in the cities, etc.

**NO** More important – fast, dramatic reform – 6% economic growth annually, but workers and peasants did not share in the wage rises; poor living and working conditions; no trade union representation; workers and middle classes demanded representation; autocracy still in place – growing opposition from liberals and socialists; peasant rebellions over land issue; liberal prime minister supported concessions; Bloody Sunday sparked revolution – Father Gapon and 200 000 protestors were fired on by Winter Palace guard with as many as 4000 casualties, etc.

6

**How significant was Lenin to Bolshevik success in November 1917?  
Explain your answer.**

**YES** Lenin was the undisputed leader of the Bolshevik Party after April 1917 and his return from exile; united party; committed to revolution using committed revolutionaries; April Theses promised Peace, Bread and Land; 'all power to the Soviets'; Lenin was an intellectual who adapted Marxism to Russia's situation – Marxism-Leninism; gained support from urban workers, sailors and some soldiers; appealed to poor peasants by encouraging them to seize land; Lenin's role in the seizure of power was crucial in terms of timing, etc.

**NO** Lenin was in exile for many years; more significant – failures of Provisional Government in dealing with Russia's problems: continuation of war, failed Summer Offensive, land issue not solved etc.; Kornilov Affair – armed the Red Guard and Bolsheviks were viewed as heroes of the revolution; Petrograd Soviet seen as representative government by many workers, soldiers and sailors, mutiny of sailors and soldiers; Trotsky's role as Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet and head of the PRC – organised the seizure of power; Bolshevik majorities in Petrograd, Moscow and most other industrial towns; increased Bolshevik membership, etc.

5

**How important were the grievances of the peasantry in causing political disturbances in Russia up to March 1917? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

80% of population were peasants; most lived in dreadful conditions; poor working conditions; life expectancy was around 40 years old in some areas; growing population led to calls for land reform by the peasants; some peasants supported the Social Revolutionaries who bred resentment; peasants used for Russian Army in 1904–5 war and First World War – huge casualties and desertions, etc. Peasants attacked landowners and seized land, crushed by Cossacks, by Tsar.

**No**

Most peasants remained loyal to the Tsar for most of the period; strong political and religious conservatism in rural areas; more important – growth in working class in the towns and cities; poor living and working conditions in the towns and in the factories; low pay; no government legislation to improve conditions or overcrowding; trade unions were illegal; Social Democrats gained support of working class – strong in Moscow and St Petersburg; middle class demanded better representation; First World War and shortages, inflation, casualties, 1905 Revolution, etc.

6

**How significant were economic factors in the introduction of the Five-Year Plans? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

NEP had failed to modernise Russian economy quickly enough; the Plans were to set ambitious targets in heavy industries – coal, iron, oil and electricity; Stalin wished to rival the capitalist economies of the West such as the USA, Britain, France and Germany; Stalin wanted to end the imports of Western industrial equipment and make Russia self-sufficient; economic strength would also lead to greater support for communism and Stalin's leadership, etc.

**No**

More significant was the reason to increase Russia's military strength – threat from capitalist nations and Germany in mid-1930s; Russia needed a modern army; Stalin wanted to create a socialist society by increasing the number of workers in towns/cities; he wanted to demonstrate the successes of the Communist Party to the rest of the world; the Plans would help establish Stalin's reputation as the legitimate successor to Lenin; to improve food production by manufacturing new farming equipment like tractors, etc.

5

**How important were the July Days in the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

July Days saw Bolshevik Party protests against Provisional Government after Kerensky's decision to continue the war and launch a summer offensive; soldiers and sailors supported the Bolshevik-led uprising – joined by workers; riots broke out and government troops used to crush revolt; Lenin realised that a disorganised uprising would only lead to greater government repression; Kerensky introduced more hard-line approaches – e.g. death penalty reintroduced and many leading Bolsheviks were imprisoned which caused further opposition in the Soviets, etc.

**No**

July Days actually led to decline in support for Bolsheviks; Lenin fled to Finland; more important – Lenin's April Theses – promised 'Peace, Land and Bread' and 'All Power to the Soviets'; Lenin effective public speaker and intellectual; Bolsheviks committed revolutionaries; social and economic effects of war highlighted the Bolsheviks as the only anti-war party; Trotsky swapped from Mensheviks and organised Red Guard to plan November seizure of power; Kornilov Affair increased Bolshevik support, etc.

6

**How significant were the Five-Year Plans in maintaining Stalin's dictatorship? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

Five-Year Plans used to replace NEP which was seen as too capitalistic by left-wing communists; helped increase Russia's military strength; gave Stalin control over economy; helped Stalin expose those who opposed 'Socialism in One Country'; economic growth would help the world and Russia see Stalin as a great leader of an emerging superpower; Plans would help establish communism in Russia – Stalin to be seen as completing Lenin's legacy, etc.

**No**

More significant – the use of propaganda to create Stalin's cult of personality; censorship and control of the media – art, architecture, religious and cultural suppression all helped Stalin create a totalitarian state; use of terror – NKVD used to suppress counter-revolutionaries – mass arrests of political opponents; use of gulags where many died; Great Purges and show trials – 1.5 million victims; Russification, etc.

**5 How important was the New Economic Policy (NEP) in consolidating Bolshevik control of Russia after 1917? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

1921 Kronstadt Rebellion – sailors angry at lack of democracy and the policy of War Communism; showed Lenin that the Bolsheviks were losing their grip on loyal revolutionaries; NEP signed by Lenin in 1921; allowed limited capitalism – private ownership, foreign trade allowed but the state maintained control over big industry and the banks; ended food requisitioning; allowed peasants to start selling surplus food again; revitalised the economy; took away the worst consequences of War Communism; allowed kulaks and Nepmen to make profits; brought stability; production returned to 1913 levels, etc.

**No**

NEP not popular with left-wing members of the Communist Party – saw it as a return to capitalism and a step backwards in the revolution; workers resented the success of the kulaks and Nepmen; more important – 1917 closing down of Constituent Assembly; Lenin's decrees (land, working conditions, etc.); war decree – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk; Red Terror and use of cheka; Bolshevik propaganda, especially during the Civil War, maintained the support of sections of the peasantry; fear of gulags and execution; Trotsky's Red Army; Civil War victory – War Communism, etc.

6

**How significant were Stalin's ideas about Communism in the Soviet Union as a reason for his emergence as leader? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

Stalin cleverly placed himself in the centre between the left and right wing of the Communist Party after Lenin's death; Stalin favoured 'Socialism in one country' – combined Soviet nationalism with socialism; this put him at odds with Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution; many sided with Stalin's ideas to strengthen the USSR first before spreading the revolution worldwide; Stalin also favoured an end to the NEP, which was viewed as counter-revolutionary by left-wing members; Stalin favoured mass industrialisation, etc.

**No**

More significant – luck played its part; Lenin's will and testament criticised Stalin, but also other party members, and was never published in Russia; Stalin had used his position as General Secretary to appoint supporters lower down in the Party who would have a vote in the Party Congress which chose members of the Executive Committee who in turn chose members of the politburo (the leading organ of the Party); Stalin did not inform Trotsky of the correct date of Lenin's funeral; Trotsky arrogant and disliked by some members; they feared Trotsky's control of the Red Army; Trotsky failed to publicly denounce Stalin; Stalin took the opportunity to make himself appear humble and close to Lenin – he was the leading mourner at Lenin's funeral; Stalin sided with Kamenev and Zinoviev, then Bukharin to remove opponents, etc.

5

**How important was the October Manifesto in weakening Tsarist rule? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

October Manifesto introduced limited democracy and representation; ended Tsarist autocracy officially; gave freedom of speech and assembly which legalised opposition political parties; an elected Duma represented the views of a majority of the population; laws had to be approved by the Duma; Duma could check the power of the government, etc.

**NO**

October Manifesto was quickly overturned by Fundamental Law in 1906, re-establishing Tsarist autocracy; Russian Army used to enforce autocracy; Dumas dissolved by Tsar when they opposed his government; more important: 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War; peasant land issue; Bloody Sunday incident; 1905 Revolution; impact of WWI; 1915 Tsar takes control of army; Tsarina and Rasputin, etc.

6

**How significant was the removal of political rivals in allowing Stalin to create a totalitarian state? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Removal of political rivals on right and left of Party between 1924–28; Great Purges of the 1930s used to effectively remove opposition – Party, military and all levels of society targeted; 20% of Party members removed; show trials used to expose counter-revolutionaries – used as propaganda in cinemas; NKVD purged; NKVD also used as organ of state terror – 1.5 million victims; 500 000 shot and many sent to gulags; anti-Soviet elements in society such as artists, writers and musicians removed; dekulakisation removed class enemy, etc.

**NO**

More significant – propaganda and censorship of the press; Stalin created his 'cult of personality' using the arts, newspaper photos, renaming of places, etc.; Young Pioneers youth organisation loyal to Stalinist ideas; carrot and stick approaches – loyal workers and those that exceeded targets were rewarded; Five Year Plans organised society like never before; collectivisation helped control the peasantry, etc.

5 **How important was the role of the Tsarina in bringing about the downfall of the Tsarist government? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Tsarina left in charge of Russian government with Rasputin as advisor in 1915 when Tsar assumed command of Russian forces; inexperienced at ruling and making decisions and easily manipulated by Rasputin; led to large amounts of criticism from liberals and even aristocratic monarchists; Tsarina was deeply unpopular in Russia due to her German heritage and dislike of Russia which she made public; Tsarina dismissed able ministers and their deputies in rapid succession; rumours of her and Rasputin as part of a German plot, etc.

**NO**

More important – First World War created poor conditions in Russia – starvation in the towns and countryside as some peasants hoarded grain; inflation due to high demand and low supply; fuel shortages; bread rationing; desertions in Russian Army due to poor conditions, lack of munitions on front line; need to farm land; land grabbing in the countryside; opposition groups in Russia gaining in popularity; strikes in the towns; poor working and living conditions in urban areas; Tsar assumed control in 1915 and was blamed for war losses, etc.

6

**How significant was the need to increase food production as a reason for Stalin's modernisation of Russia? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Stalin wanted to end food shortages and needed to feed industrial workers and Army efficiently and consistently; collectivisation used to share new farming methods and used modern machinery and techniques to increase production; Stalin needed surplus food to sell abroad to raise capital for investment in technology and expertise, etc.

**NO**

More significant – gave Stalin and the Communist Party control over production; allowed Stalin to remove the NEP and take a more communist direction; some saw it as vital to security – Five Year Plans needed for rapid industrialisation to compete with capitalist West and guard against future attacks; removed Kulaks as a class enemy, etc.

5

**How important was the Cheka in the Bolsheviks' consolidation of power to 1921? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Bolsheviks dealt ruthlessly with political opponents; Cheka set up to hunt out counter-revolutionary elements and class enemies; Red Guard used to close down National Assembly and protests afterwards; Trotsky controlled Red Army officers by taking families hostage and appointing commissars to watch them; beatings, hangings and shooting of opponents – Red Terror; grain requisitioning; Tsar and family murdered in July 1918; growth of Red Army, etc.

**NO**

More important – Lenin's Decrees on Land, Working Conditions, and the Treaty of Brest Litovsk made it seem as if the Bolsheviks were delivering on Lenin's promises; Lenin used Soviet Congress to pass laws; set up Sovnarkom with Lenin as chairman; Bolshevik propaganda attracted new members and kept some peasants on side during the Civil War; War Communism; NEP, etc.

6

**How significant were splits amongst the leadership of the Communist Party in allowing Stalin to gain control of Russia? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Factions in the party since Lenin's implementation of NEP; caused infighting before and after Lenin's death; left-wing communists wanted to see a permanent revolution – e.g. Trotsky who opposed NEP; right wing wanted a more moderate approach to building socialism such as Kamenev and Zinoviev; Stalin manipulates both sides and manages to get key leaders expelled from the Party; unites left and right under Socialism in one country, etc.

**NO**

More significant – luck; Stalin was chief mourner at Lenin's funeral and Trotsky was given the wrong date and did not attend; Stalin part of ruling triumvirate and outmanoeuvred his colleagues; Stalin used his position as General Secretary to appoint supporters lower down in the Party; Lenin's Last Will and Testament was not read out to the public as it criticised Stalin and other Party members; Trotsky viewed as arrogant by other Party members; feared Trotsky's control of the Red Army, etc.