

A-level HISTORY

Component 1E Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment,
1682–1796

Thursday 23 May 2024 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1E.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

The question of the succession to the Russian throne remained an issue throughout Catherine's entire adult life. In one form or another it complicated or confused much of her government. It would not go away. It would not be solved. From the moment Catherine seized power, she periodically had to contend with various plots against her authority. These posed two distinct dangers. Firstly, conspiracies among the elite that aimed at a new palace revolution. Secondly, stirrings among frontier communities in defence of local autonomy against the centralising policies of the expansive absolutist state. The worst political nightmare for the Empress, the most threatening prospect, would have combined the two different types of revolt into a regional or mass movement with elite leadership. Behind the gracious, confident façade that Catherine presented in public, she often worried about bizarre plots, strains on society, and speculation about Paul's political rights. Doubly disturbing was the fact that many incidents invoked the names of Peter III and Paul. 5 10

Adapted from JT Alexander, *Catherine the Great*, 1989**Extract B**

From her seizure of power, Catherine considered herself to be autocrat of all Russia, whatever the flimsiness of her right to the title. The new Empress quickly set about the task of consolidating her position on the throne. One obstacle was Ivan VI, still alive two decades after his overthrow, but murdered in 1764, with her encouragement. Discontent was reflected in the announcement, on more than 20 occasions, of a return to life of the murdered Peter III. Since his death, Peter III had been transformed into a symbol of justice, most notably by a Don Cossack named Pugachev. By 1774 Pugachev's name was enough to strike terror in Moscow and the surrounding provinces. This persuaded the government to send its best military leaders to suppress the movement before it could succeed in reversing the natural order of society. Pugachev was executed at the beginning of 1775. However, the name of Pugachev lived on in the songs and legends of the peasants, tribesmen and Cossacks. 5 10

Adapted from P Dukes, *The Making of Russian Absolutism 1603–1801*, 1990

Extract C

There was, of course, opposition to both Catherine's usurpation of the throne and to some of her policies. There were those who supported Peter III in 1762 and had never forgiven Catherine for usurping the throne. There were others who had hoped that Catherine would merely be regent for her eight-year-old son, Paul. This was the case above all with Count Nikita Panin, who had hoped to benefit from his position as governor of the young Grand Duke. However, it is essential to realise how little opposition there was to the form of government, absolutism, in Russia. The bulk of the population accepted the legitimacy of the regime, however much some people disagreed with some policies. Government operated largely as a partnership between the nobility, the townspeople and the Crown. Individuals might criticise specific policies, but the Russian political system provided no channels for groups to form with common programmes.

Adapted from I de Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*, 1993

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Catherine the Great and opposition.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent did Peter the Great's domestic reforms westernise Russia? **[25 marks]**

0 3 How important were financial and economic reforms to the success of Peter the Great's foreign policy? **[25 marks]**

0 4 How effectively did the rulers of Russia maintain tsarist authority in the years 1725 to 1762? **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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