

AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Component 1H Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Wednesday 15 May 2024 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/1H.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

Enlightened ideas circulating in the government of Alexander II shaped the rightly-named 'Great Reforms' of the 1860s. Freedoms were granted to change society and create a dynamic economy. The serfs were emancipated and the groundwork laid for the development of peasant agriculture. The establishment of the zemstva was another major reform, while judicial reforms set up an independent legal system and new laws relaxed censorship, reformed primary schools and modernised the military. The enormous state was completely remodelled. Between 1861 and 1894, nearly 40% of the gentry's land was sold to peasants. The zemstva pursued a mission to overcome backwardness; annual zemstva expenditure on education increased from 15 million roubles in 1868 to almost 96 million by the mid-1890s.

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Adapted from O Figes, *A People's Tragedy*, 1996

Extract B

Defeat in the Crimea brought action. However, the government conceded less than liberals had hoped and the overall effect of the reforms was to increase the power of the government. The serfs were freed, although they remained, in effect, tied to the land. The zemstva looked like genuinely democratic institutions, yet the Russian government was too jealous of its own powers to permit them an independent role. The judicial reform created new courts, but the government limited their authority. Other reforms were similarly limited. After 1866 Alexander II turned away from reform and his son, Alexander III, was even more conservative. By the end of his reign it was clear that reform had failed.

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Adapted from D Christian, *Imperial and Soviet Russia*, 1986

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the 'Great Reforms' and their impact by 1894?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'Russia became an industrialised country in the years 1855 to 1894.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'There was no significant change in tsarist political authority in Russia in the years c1900 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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