



# **Examiners' Report** **June 2023**

**GCE History 9HI0 2C**

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## Introduction

Candidates from across the ability range engaged effectively with A Level paper 2C which deals with France in revolution (2C.1) and Russia in revolution (2C.2).

The paper is divided into two sections. Section A contains a compulsory question which is based on two linked sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts – cause, consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, and significance. Candidates appeared to organise their time effectively and there was very little evidence of candidates being unable to attempt both answers within the time allocated.

Examiners continued to comment on the fact that a significant minority of scripts posed some problems with the legibility of handwriting. This appeared to be a more extensive issue during this cycle. Candidates are reminded that examiners can only give credit for what they can read. Similarly, examiners commented on the increasing use of shorthand and abbreviations in the work produced by candidates, which can often hinder meaning and the flow of an argument.

In Section A, the strongest answers were able to develop reasoned and supported inferences from the sources. Such responses evaluated the sources thoroughly in relation to the demands of the enquiry based on both the contextual knowledge that was on offer, and through an awareness of the nature, origin and purpose of the sources. The question requires candidates to use the sources 'together' and the majority of candidates continue to be aware of this requirement. There is still some evidence of candidates using often extensive contextual knowledge to drive an answer to the enquiry, rather than using it to illuminate and discuss the sources. This resulted in candidates not dealing with the sources adequately.

In section B it was clear that most candidates had a secure knowledge base, but this was not always effectively used to address the specific focus of the questions posed. Stronger answers clearly understood the importance of identifying the appropriate second order concept that was being targeted by the question. Candidates also need to be aware of the chronological parameters of questions and to ensure that they cover the chronology fully. Some candidates continue to explicitly state in the introduction to the essay that they are naming the criteria that they plan to use, when in actual fact they are referring to the issues or the factors that will be discussed in the response. Centres are reminded that 'criteria', in bullet point 3 of the generic mark scheme, refers to the basis on which candidates reach their judgement, not the issues that are discussed in the process of reaching that judgement.

## Question 1

Responses to this question came from across the ability range. Most candidates were able to identify, from both sources, features of the White Terror, notably its chief targets, the Jacobins, and the extent of violence it witnessed. Stronger candidates used their knowledge of the nature of the White Terror both to discuss and challenge the claims made in the sources, for example with reference to the differences in the way this was manifested in Paris and in cities like Lyon and Marseilles. These answers also commented on the provenance of both sources to make reasoned judgements on the weight of their evidence to the enquiry. For example, with reference to Source 2, there were some often insightful comments made about Duval's position and the impact this may have on his evidence, and this was frequently applied in coming to a judgement.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources, a problem caused by rushed reading perhaps but one which stymied candidates' ability to engage with the enquiry. Many wrote extensively about the nature, origin and purpose of the sources often along stereotypical lines without attempting to apply this to the content of the sources in coming to a judgement. A significant number of candidates did not engage with the utility of the sources at all. It was clear also, that some candidates lacked a sound knowledge and understanding of this part of the specification – such responses tended to lack depth, accuracy and precision.

In the wake of the Terror's end, many who had previously been heavily repressed by fears of violence felt able to seek revenge against Jacobin supporters. Together, these sources offer a highly useful insight into the nature of the White Terror through their contrasting perspectives.

A key strength of these sources in understanding the nature of the White Terror is the areas where they disagree. On the one hand, the first source argues that the White Terror saw extreme violence with people being 'hacked to pieces', ~~reflecting~~ <sup>suggesting</sup> the reason reprisals against Jacobins ~~were~~ was known as the White Terror was because it was a continuation of extreme, widespread violence. In contrast, the second source, from the perspective of a participant in the White Terror suggests violence was initially avoided, and they 'limited themselves to mocking the Jacobins!'. This contrast could suggest how the violence of the White Terror escalated over time, an idea

reinforced by the time between the events referenced in the first and second source, with the first source referring to an attack in 1794 and the second events in 1795. A further contrast between the two sources is the threat still posed by remaining Jacobin~~s~~ supporters, where the first source argues that the majority of Jacobins were quickly arrested at the order of 'the new Thermidorean government', the second suggests that there were 'Jacobin masses' who 'were still a threat.' Though the first source implies a degree of paranoia behind the White Terror, the second source reflects the initial instability of the Thermidorean government ~~and~~ and remaining threat seen through incidents like the Jacobin~~s~~ conspiracy of Equals in late 1794. As a result, by viewing the sources together we can gain a clearer understanding of the nature of the White Terror both in its early stages when it had a more legitimate purpose and later when the ~~left~~ Jacobin threat had largely passed and ~~it~~ ~~there~~ its nature shifted into essentially ~~a~~ ~~an~~ violent revenge.

Despite the many contrasts between the two

Sources, there are key areas where they agree which offer further insight into the white Terror's nature. For example, the first source describes how the violence included 'women, children and old men', ~~and~~ a claim partially corroborated by the second source which states they 'punished the women.' This indiscriminate violence in part reflects the heavy involvement of women in the radicalism of the revolution as in key protests like the October days in 1789. This suggests the extent of vengeful feeling behind the white Terror was significant and a central motivator for the degree of violence described in source 1, and ~~the~~ its indiscriminate nature depicted by both sources. ~~Both sources also~~ Together, both sources offer a ~~highly~~ useful insight into the motivations of the white Terror ~~to~~ due to their outsider and insider perspectives which both reinforce the significance of vengeance.

~~The~~ A key reason for the sources' usefulness when used together is their contrasting perspectives. The first source is written by ~~Spain~~ an outsider arriving in Southern France

to end the violence, reflected in the ~~clear~~ clear criticism of the 'murderous frenzy.' In contrast, the second source is from the perspective of a member of the Gilded Youth who participated in the White Terror, creating a bias ~~in~~ that can be seen in the description of 'vulgar' and 'filthy' Jacobins. Though this could potentially limit the source's usefulness, it ultimately offers a useful insight into how participants of the White Terror viewed their actions, ~~reinforced by the~~ with this usefulness ~~increased~~ increased by the more neutral perspectives given in the first source. Furthermore, the first source describes violence in the South of France where royalist support and anti-Jacobin sentiment was typically stronger compared to Paris where the second source is set and where radical political groups like the Jacobins and Cordeliers were based, and the sans-culottes who made up the majority of Parisians were highly radical as demonstrated in the frequent *jaournées* throughout the revolutionary period.

Overall, the strong contrast between these sources' depiction of the

White Terror makes them highly useful in creating a complete picture of its motivations, extent and how it differed across regions.



This candidate interrogates the evidence of both sources with confidence and discrimination. Though the number of reasoned inferences made from the content of the sources is not extensive, they demonstrate a range of ways in which the material can be used. Knowledge of the historical context is used to illuminate what can be gained from the content of the sources, and some understanding is shown of the need to interpret source material in the context of the values and concerns of the society from which it is drawn. Lastly, valid comments are made about the utility of both sources, and an attempt is made to take into account the weight the evidence will bear in coming to a judgement, though this could have been more convincingly substantiated. The answer achieved a L5 mark.

## Question 2

There were a good many strong responses to this question. Most candidates were able to make inferences from the sources with regards to Rasputin's relationship with the Tsar and Tsarina, noting the very great influence he appeared to have over the latter in particular. Many also recognised that the evidence of the two sources was more nuanced when it came to the relationship between Rasputin and Nicholas II. Stronger candidates were able to use their contextual knowledge to examine these issues further, particularly with regard to Rasputin's influence over political decisions. Such answers also commented on the provenance of both sources to make reasoned judgements on the weight of their evidence to the enquiry, examining especially the utility of Source 2's observations.

Weaker answers tended not to engage fully with the content of the sources, a problem caused by rushed reading perhaps but one which stymied candidates' ability to engage with the enquiry. Many wrote extensively about the nature, origin and purpose of the sources often along stereotypical lines without attempting to apply this to the content of the sources in coming to a judgement. A significant number of candidates did not engage with the utility of the sources at all. It was clear also, that some candidates lacked sound knowledge and understanding of this part of the specification – such responses tended to lack depth, accuracy and precision.

Both sources can be used to show how Rasputin influenced and interacted with both the Tsar and Tsarina. Whilst the sources differ in author and how much influence Rasputin had, both can be seen as credible and reliable in making a conclusive judgement of Rasputin's relationship with Nicholas II and Alexandra.

Source 3 shows a personal letter written from Alexandra which appears to be monitored by "our friend" Rasputin. It is clear from the source that Rasputin's relationship with the Tsarina was close, the use of "God sent him to us," "please", "forgive me" and "I must" show a persistent desire to show the urgency and significance of the message. It shows Alexandra to trust Rasputin which can be seen in her adamancy to believe his "vision." Rasputin gained influence with the Romanovs through his reputation as a mystic; the Tsar and Tsarina were desperate to find relief for ~~the heir~~ their son who suffered from haemophilia. The son's painful condition left the parents vulnerable to Rasputin who appeared to soothe the boy's pain, most probably by calming him which lowered his blood pressure. As a mother it is most significantly his influence in caring for her son that placed Rasputin as a man sent by "God" in the eyes of Tsarina. The reference shown to the war, that started in 1914, makes reference to the ongoing struggles seen by Russia's war effort. The use of

of the German army, "~~considering its position~~" being able to "consolidate its position" resulting in "endless bloodshed and trouble to remove them," shows her own political understanding of the war/ errors. Alexandra also shows how Rasputin is an "enemy" with the current minister of war Polivanov. The use of "beg" to appoint Protopopov is perhaps a demonstration of Rasputin projecting a desire to remain in a political stable position, whilst Alexandra's shows to attempt to convince her husband ~~appears to be rightly motivated by~~ ~~her~~ ~~relationship~~ ~~with~~ ~~Rasputin~~, Nicholas is shown to not look to Rasputin for political advice as regularly. The use of "our friend regrets you did not speak to him more about your ministers" shows ~~for~~ Nicholas to be less dependent on Rasputin in terms of a political relationship. The author of <sup>me</sup> source is significant to show the agenda behind the private letters, Nicholas and Alexandra shared a close relationship, and the use of letters is an intimate and personal way of communication. The date of the source shows to be within the first world war and is therefore a credible source for showing Rasputin's relationship with Nicholas and Tsarina during the first world war. The source is in a <sup>desperate</sup> convincing tone and the use of past tense in "you have done a very wise ~~choice~~ ~~error~~ in appointing him" appears again to be convincing her husband to act. Significantly, during the war Nicholas appointed himself head of the army in March 1915, and the political environment saw consistent changes in political figures. This source indicates the influence Rasputin had on the Tsarina in changing government officials during the first world war.

Source 4 is shown to give knowledge on Rasputin's relationship with Nicholas and Alexandra from an external point of view and shows Tsarina to be more influenced than Nicholas who retained his "independence of judgement when dealing with Rasputin." The use of "hypnosis" and "implanted" in her brain demonstrates a sense that Rasputin had a close and dominant relationship with Alexandra, implying the "hypnosis" made her almost controllable and easily influenced, which is perhaps from his ability to soothe her son. The lack of "slightest opposition" further implies the lack of personal agency she had. Paléologue further suggests Nicholas was "less passive and complete" with Rasputin and adopted a "silent and reserved manner" to Rasputin's attempt to intervene politically. The Tsar himself ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~was~~ opposed any attempts to question his democratic power, as previously shown with the dissolution of the first two Dumas and re-assertment of fundamental laws back in 1907. The use of direct speech in the source ~~appears~~ <sup>can</sup> be used as an insight into the Tsar's personal feelings towards Rasputin, the use of him being "scolded and smothered (for) several weeks" appears to show Rasputin's mental relationship with Nicholas and how he affected the Tsar in matters to do with the war effort. Paléologue being a French ambassador would have been an ally to Russia in the war, and the source itself is from a period of war. The tone of the text is not critical of the Tsar himself and instead portrays him as a man who spends time in "consideration" and has an "independence of mind".

Both sources give detailed descriptions of Rasputin and his direct influence on the Tsar and Tsarina. Source 3 is a more personal depiction of Rasputin's relationship with Alexandra and shows her to place Rasputin as an alternative and trustworthy position. In source 4 Paleologue appears to more critically show Rasputin's relationship with Alexandra, the use of "hypnosis" appears to detract from her own rationality. Both sources give evidence to show how Nicholas appears more reserved with his relationship with the Tsar; perhaps due to the fact that Rasputin and Alexandra were in Petrograd with little first hand knowledge of the war effort that Nicholas surrounded himself in ~~the war~~ when he stationed himself at the military headquarters with the army generals. Neither sources appear to reference Rasputin's influence on the heir to the throne, whilst this is not a weakness, it could be used to support why the Tsarina put so much faith in Rasputin. Perhaps Paleologue writing at the time in 1915 did not know of the son's illness as ~~the~~ Nicholas and Alexandra kept it very private. Alexandra's source and Paleologue together are both credible sources that can be applied together to investigate Rasputin's relationship with Nicholas and Alexandra; the similarity in timings of when the sources were written gives credibility and their difference in external and internal interpretations allows for a well rounded interpretation. The inference in source 3 is in regards to Alexandra trying to impure herself and Rasputin into the war effort, whilst source 4 can be seen as a personal depiction of ~~how~~ <sup>how</sup> Rasputin appeared to affect Alexandra.

and Nicholas. Unlike the sources have different motives and uses, the similarities in inference that Rasputin was influential on the couple in WWI, <sup>produces</sup> ~~shows~~ knowledge of Rasputin's relationship with Alexandra and Nicholas.



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Here, the candidate makes reasoned inferences from both sources in relation to Rasputin's relationship with the Tsar and Tsarina. To this, contextual knowledge is added that illuminates what can be gained from the content of the two sources, and valid comments are offered concerning the utility of the two sources. Lastly, the evidence of the sources is used together, and the candidate does attempt to consider the weight that the sources will bear in evaluating the question. It achieved a high L4 mark.

### Question 3

This was a popular question, and it was frequently answered very well. Many candidates had a sound knowledge and understanding of the impact of the events of 1789-90 on both the status and the authority of the monarchy. Such responses were able to examine the ways in which Louis XVI retained some control over the legislative process and was still able to appoint ministers and other offices of the crown without interference. However, many noted that the tumultuous events of these years fatally undermined the fundamentals of the ancient regime, so that the King's position was still greatly altered.

Weaker answers tended to lack precise knowledge and understanding of the issues and/or did not respect the time frame specified in the question. Some wrote generally of the problems facing the monarchy during the late seventeenth century. In such answers, judgements tended to assertion rather than being based upon any valid criteria.

Chosen question number: Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

It can be agreed ~~to some extent~~ that although the French monarchy did still retain some status and authority, it was very limited and therefore the status ~~of the~~ and authority of the French monarchy ~~was~~ was seriously undermined due to uprisings such as the October Days and the onslaught and rebuke the monarchy received after the flight to Varennes.

One might argue that ~~the~~ it is accurate to say that in the years 1789-90, the status and authority of the French monarchy was not seriously undermined as the king did still maintain his title and was still given authority as overall he still held the highest power. This was because he could use his suspension of veto whenever he wanted in order to stop a law from passing, therefore he still had the highest power.

However, one might disagree and argue that it is inaccurate to say so following the aftermath of the Flight to Varennes and several uprisings such as the October Days and Champ de Mars Massacre. The ~~the~~ Flight of Varennes occurred in

June 1789 as the Royal family attempted to flee ~~to~~ Paris following the conflict created, however, they only managed to travel 30 miles before the king was recognised by a guard at an outpost. This led to a significant amount of onslaught and rebuke from the public as the king received criticism for attempting to flee and abandon Paris. With many Parisians calling to remove the king from the throne thus undermining the authority and status of the French monarchy as Louis then obtained less power.

Additionally, another reason why one may agree the statement is inaccurate is due to the enlightenment and loss of belief in the divine right of kings. Initially many believed in the divine right of kings which was the belief the king was appointed by God ~~for~~ however following



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This response has some focus on the ways in which the status and authority of the monarchy was affected in the years 1789-90 but some of the material raised is clearly beyond this time frame. An overall judgement is given, though with limited substantiation, while the answer shows some attempts at organisation. It was given a top L2 mark.

## Question 4

This was less popular than Q3 but featured many impressive responses. Those that scored most highly knew the threat posed by the Vendee revolt in excellent detail and were able to balance the scale and violence it displayed, forcing the Republic to divert significant numbers of troops to its suppression, with consideration of other threats of the period, e.g. the federalists or the armies of the First Coalition. Some also argued that the poor discipline of the rebels and the successful deployment of the resources of the Republic against them, indicated that the Vendee revolt was a lesser threat altogether.

Again, weaker answers suffered from having an insecure knowledge and understanding of the material that stymied their ability to come to a convincing judgement.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4

Question 5  Question 6

The Vendée revolt, beginning when rebels overran Cholet in the spring of 1793, posed a serious threat to the ~~Republic~~ of the Republic. Yet, the threat it posed to the survival of the Republic was of lesser significance.

Largely caused by deep rooted dissatisfaction at the direction the revolution was headed, compounded by hostility towards the religious changes happening in France and the dire economic situation, the Vendée witnessed mass unrest.

National Guards were frequently attacked by bands of rebels in the Vendée, for example while trying to enforce tax collection, and rebels overran whole areas. The significance of the

threat posed by the threat of civil war in the Vendée can be seen in the National Convention's decision to divert 30,000 ~~troops~~ troops from the revolutionary war front to deal with the Vendée. While the rebels relied on

guerrilla tactics and were not used to set piece battles, the revolutionary troops were overwhelmed by the sheer scale and number of rebels who fought.

The significance and weight of the threat posed by the Vendée revolt to the Republic can also be highlighted through Robespierre's ~~statement~~ <sup>stated</sup> belief

that the survival of the Republic was dependant on defeat of the rebels. The struggle of the ~~the~~ revolutionary government to <sup>suppress</sup> ~~defeat~~ the uprising further demonstrates the scale of the revolt, as the revolt continued until December ~~with~~ with a decisive victory at Le Mans that left 15,000 dead. In total, it is estimated that between 150,000 - 200,000 people died in the Vendean revolt thus showing the nature of the uprising and the government's response. The seriousness with which the Republican government ~~reacted~~ viewed the ~~the~~ Vendean unrest and the reaction to it exemplifies the significance of the threat it posed to the Republic in 1793.

However, the Vendée uprising may have not been such a significant threat to the Republic's survival as was feared. It was a very localized form of opposition to the new government, with rebels often unwilling to move far from their homes. ~~The~~ Most rebels did not have proper weapons other and most significantly, the ~~the~~ ~~people of France~~ involved in the Vendée unrest revolt in the Vendée failed to coordinate with the federalist revolt elsewhere in France, which made the threat posed by the Vendée less significant.

Furthermore, ~~there~~ there were other threats that existed in 1793 that posed a larger threat to the Republic

These were particularly significant as they united all <sup>three</sup> ~~states~~ ~~in~~ ~~an~~ ~~anti-~~ ~~Paris~~ ~~coalition~~ and many revolts turned counter-revolutionary. Spread across provinces such as Lyon, ~~the Vendée~~, the federalist revolt overwhelmed the representatives on mission tasked with crushing them. While the Vendée revolt was mainly caused by the fact that the economic position of the sans-culottes had not improved, the federalist revolts were more overtly counter-revolutionary and thus posed an equally large threat to the ~~new~~ Republic.

In conclusion, the Vendée revolt did present a significant threat to the Republic in 1793, however it did not significantly threaten its survival. It posed a <sup>significant</sup> challenge to the Republican government's authority and call for order, but overall other factors such as the external threats to the revolution (for example, the War of the First Coalition) and the federalist revolts were a greater threat to the Republic ~~than~~. While Robespierre said the defeat of the rebels in the Vendée was critical for the Republic's survival, the rebels were not specifically against the <sup>nor the</sup> revolution ~~or~~ Republic.



This high L4 response focuses clearly on the extent of the threat posed by the Vendee revolt to the government of the Republic. It deploys sufficient knowledge to demonstrate understanding of the demands of the question, and to meet most of its demands. Criteria by which the question can be judged are applied, and overall, the judgement is supported.

## Question 5

Candidates displayed a variety of approaches to this question. For example, some candidates interpreted 'revolutionary activity' during 1905 as pertaining only to the industrial workers of Russia, while others included in this definition both the activities of the peasants for land reform and those of the middle classes for democratic rights. All valid approaches were rewarded.

Stronger answers focused firmly on the unrest of 1905 and judged its significance with regard to the scale and duration of the unrest, the pressure placed on Tsarism by the involvement of different groups with different goals and, most often, by the nature and of the concessions offered in October. Many argued that the ability of the Tsar to water down the promises made in the Fundamental Laws of 1906, also the failure of the military to become involved, made the events of the Revolution less significant.

On the other hand, weaker answers interpreted it as a causal question and described the events, for example, of the Russo-Japanese war in some detail. Others lacked the knowledge and understanding of the material to go much beyond the events of Bloody Sunday.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4

Question 5  Question 6

The spread of revolutionary activity in the Russian Empire during the 1905 revolution was highly significant as the disorder led to the creation of the manifesto and the creation of the Duma which was a challenge and change to the Autocratic rule in Russia that had existed before hand. If the revolutionary activity was not overly significant, there would not have been as big of a pressure and threat that resulted in the October Manifesto which was a change to the regime.

The Revolutionary Activity was sparked by Bloody Sunday, before this there had been unrest but it had never reached a scale like it did in the revolution. In 1905, 150,000 unarmed protesters gathered at several points in St Petersburg with the intent to march on the Winter Palace led by Father Gapon with a petition. The petition demanded an 8 hour working day and legislation of trade unions, just to improve working conditions, though there was implications of free speech and assembly, but there was no part about calling the Tsar 'evil' or calling for the abolition of Tsarism. So when 200 protesters were killed and 800 were injured, massive waves of protests swept over Russia in the following weeks. Almost 500,000 workers struck and students struck which led to the closure of universities for the rest of the year. This is significant as it shows the impact of spread of revolutionary activity after one event. before this there had been unrest and discontent with new things were, but it was the spread of

strikes and revolutionary ideas that led to the 1905 revolution becoming a big enough problem concessions had to be made. If that initial spread had not started, it would not have snowballed to the extent it did. However, it was just one event and so the extent to which it was a spread can be questioned, however the disorder that followed as a result does show how significant the spread of revolutionary activity was in 1905.

The spread of revolutionary activity led to many developments in 1905, the League of Liberation and Union of Unions gaining more power and influence, the major strikes in the Black Earth Region of Russia and how the peasants would raid landowners estates for land and loot. The instances all show the high significance of the spread as it escalated and was not able to be put to rest easily. However, it could be argued that it was the army being preoccupied in a war that did not quell the disorder as they did not get back till halfway through 1905, however the revolutionary groups that had been established had taken over brainwashed and indoctrination services which made suppression difficult which shows how the spread of revolutionary activity caused significant problems even when other problems were solved, which makes it highly significant. In Poland in January there were protests that repeated again later in the year, in October there was a general strike where workers in St. Petersburg stopped working under encouragement from the Petrograd Soviet, one of multiple Soviets that had been set up due to the spread of revolutionary activity, which shows how the spread of the revolutionary activity caused so much disorder and genuine threat to the Tsarist regime that it was highly significant in the year 1905. (next page)

The August and October Manifestos are reflections of how extreme the spread of revolutionary activity got and how it there had to be two manifestos to calm the revolutionizing activity. The August Manifesto in 1905 said that there would be an elected body that would be able to advise the Tsar and but would have no real power of its own, and that there would be an electoral system made which peasants and landowners could vote in, but not <sup>urban</sup> workers, national minorities and Jews. The fact that this was rejected shows how far the spread of revolutionary activity had gotten, as the people thought it didn't concede enough and left the Tsar's autocratic power basically untouched, which would have been a radical idea that reflects the spread and intensity of revolutionary ideas. The October Manifesto had more concessions, the Duma would have real power as no laws could be passed without the Duma's ratification, promised freedom of speech and assembly and extended the vote to more groups, such as urban workers. The limitations that had to be put on the Tsar's power demonstrates the impact of the revolutionizing activity and its next reinforced by the reaction, too many liberals were content with it and accepted it, meaning that the opposition of was now divided, and it was after this that the Petrograd Soviet was able to be shut down which suggests when the spread of the revolutionizing activity was limited, the impact it had decreased and the power it had against the Tsar fell and this shows how the spread it got to before the concessions was highly significant as when it was limited it was noticeable and it caused radical concessions for the time. If it wasn't significant, the spread becoming less spread would not have been as damaging to the remaining revolutionizing activity as it was.

\* Durnovo's suppression also highlights the extent of spread of revolutionary activity which resulted in high casualty numbers when they were opposed. The unrest in 1905, peasants being revolutionary, especially by looting landowners, was put down by military force. Durnovo estimated 11,000 were killed and 20,000 were wounded, as well as 45,000 were deported to Siberia. The extent of the violence and brutality of the force shows how huge of an issue the spread of revolutionary activity was as it had to be put down with such large numbers of casualties, which shows how significant it was in 1905 as this was the response and consequence of how much it spread in the countryside.

In conclusion, the spread of revolutionary activity was highly significant as it had such a serious impact on Russia as a whole, the measures taken to suppress the spread were brutal and the concessions that had to be made, limiting the Tsar's autocratic power, were extremely radical for the time and suggest how the amount the revolutionary activity spread had lasting impacts on Russia as a whole and the government, it was incredibly <sup>significant</sup> in 1905.



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Examiner Comments

This response sustains a focus on the significance of the revolutionary activity in Russia during 1905, assessing that significance in a range of ways from the scale of the unrest to the importance of the concessions it elicited. The candidate deploys sufficient knowledge of the period to meet most of the question's demands and, in coming to a judgement, establishes valid criteria by which the question can be judged. It was awarded a low L5 mark.

## Question 6

This was a popular question and was attempted by candidates from across the ability range. Better answers were able to consider the weaknesses associated with foreign intervention in full, while evaluating reasons for the defeat of the Whites during the civil war. Such responses discussed, for example, the decline in the interest of foreign countries in supporting the Whites once Germany was defeated, also the uses made of foreign support for the Whites utilised by Bolshevik propaganda.

Most candidates were able to evidence a range of other reasons for the Bolshevik victory, notably their control of the industrial heartlands, the role of Trotsky in rallying the Red Army and Lenin's ability to mobilise the resource available to him through the activities of the Cheka and the policy of war communism.

Chosen question number: Question 3  Question 4

Question 5  Question 6

Very few commentators and observers at the time of the Russian civil war could have expected the Bolsheviks to survive and the White cause to be defeated - most expected them could not have anticipated their more than seven-decade rule. Yet, by some miracle it seemed, the Whites were defeated in the civil war; why? This essay will answer that question by examining three ~~and~~ factors: the weaknesses of foreign intervention; the weaknesses of the Bolsheviks' opponents; and the strengths of the Red Army. On the basis of profound versus superficial impact, this essay will argue that the strengths of the Red Army were primarily responsible for the defeat of the Whites.

To begin with, the foreign intervention in the civil war was half-hearted, to say the least. This mainly stemmed from the fact that ~~most~~ <sup>many</sup> of the powers involved had any emotional or ideological investment in their operations. Japan mainly sought to protect their own economic interests in the specific Pacific; the US mainly felt a humanitarian

Whites.

an appeal to deliver aid to Russian citizens; it was only really Britain that had a vested ideological interest in seeing the defeat of the Bolsheviks, ~~as~~ mainly spurred by Churchill who despised communism. This meant that the amount of intervention provided was rather limited. Although 400 British soldiers died in combat, virtually all the French troops had withdrawn by 1919, and US troops were ~~mostly~~ under orders to avoid combat. ~~therefore~~ In addition, the railway system which transported foreign supplies was leaky, with sections ~~having~~ of the Trans-Siberian Railway having been incomplete in 1914 despite construction finishing in 1902. This weakened foreign intervention because it lessened the chances of their donations reaching their destination; there was an incident at Archangel where old, <sup>undistributed</sup> supplies sank into the ground under the weight of new ones. This contributed to the defeat of the Whites because it meant that the impact of their overseas allies was mostly not felt. However, the impact of this ~~is~~ was arguably superficial. As this essay will go on to discuss, the Whites and other opponents were so spread out across Russia and ~~so~~ lacked such unity in aims that even if foreign intervention had been stronger, there was still no collective for it to reach. Therefore, it cannot be considered the main reason for the defeat of the

What can be considered more significant, though, is the weaknesses of the Bolsheviks' opponents, including the Whites. To begin with they were not united in aims, with some groups wanting a full return to Tsarism, some <sup>simply</sup> wanting the Bolsheviks out of power and some, such as the Czech Legion, wanting national independence and sovereignty. This ~~weakened~~ contributed to the defeat of the Whites because whereas the Red Army had clear, strictly enforced ideological goals, the Whites and other opponents had no such collective idea they could turn to for morale. This was a pattern also seen in the physical placement of the various White armies. Whereas the Red Army <sup>focused on</sup> held key strongholds such as Moscow and Petrograd, the White armies under Denikin, Kolchak, Yudenich and Wrangel were spread in disparate areas across the Russian Empire. Not only did this make it ~~so~~ harder for them to communicate and therefore co-ordinate with one another, it also made it easier for the Red Army to pick off the White armies one by one, without much fear of a counter-attack coming from White support. This contributed ~~more~~ significantly to the defeat of the Whites in the civil war than the weaknesses of foreign intervention, but was still not as profound as

our final facts, the strengths of the Reds. They were utterly dedicated, and a behemoth of an army, so it is unlikely that a united set of Whites could have defeated them anyway. Thus, the weaknesses of the Bolsheviks' opponents cannot be considered the primary reason for their defeat, either.

Finally, the strengths of the Red Army vastly outweighed the importance of both the foreign interventionists and the Whites. They were a huge army to begin with, standing at around 1 million men by 1918, and 5 million by 1921. This gave them a numerical preponderance over their opponents. Furthermore, they had a strict disciplinary system which ensured their members' loyalty to the cause, including an oath of loyalty that one could almost expect more from a Tsarist army before the revolution. On top of this, Trotsky, the army's head, effectively employed a system of dual command. Ex-tsarist generals were employed to lead the army with great experience, but each was supervised by a Bolshevik 'manny', and any orders from the ex-tsarist officials had to be passed through their Bolshevik supervisors before being executed. This ~~is~~ immensely contributed to the defeat of the Whites because it created an invaluable combination of extensive military experience

and utter dedication to the Bolshevik cause. Finally, as stated previously, the Reds held the major strongholds of Moscow and Petrograd, but they also concentrated around the railway system, too. This gave them control of key infrastructure that was thus denied to the Whites, leading to the Whites' defeat because they had far stronger control of supplies and equipment. This ~~had an~~ certainly had a profound impact on the defeat of the Whites, because even if they had been stronger and more united, the likelihood is that they simply could not have measured up to the long list of Red strengths.

In conclusion, the weaknesses associated with foreign intervention certainly did not aid the White cause, as the little help provided by interventionists was half-hearted, often in self-interest, and short-lived. The weaknesses of the Bolsheviks' opponents, too, were a significant factor, as they meant there was no collective for foreign aid to actually help. However, by far the most profound reason for the defeat of the Whites was the strengths of the Reds. With an indomitable spirit, geographic strongholds and superior command, the defeat of the Whites at the hands of the Red Army was perhaps disappointing to many, but surely unsurprising.



Here, the candidate offers a sustained analysis of the reasons for the Bolshevik victory in the Russian civil war. The weaknesses associated with foreign intervention are considered fully, and the relative importance of this factor are considered in relation to others, notably the other weaknesses of the White forces, and above all, the strengths of the Reds. The argument is logical and coherent throughout, and criteria are established and fully applied in coming to a judgement. It received a top L5 mark.

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

### Section A

- Candidates should go beyond paraphrasing the content of the sources to draw out reasoned, supported and developed inferences relevant to the enquiry
- Candidates should move beyond stereotypical approaches to the nature/purpose and authorship of the source by, for example, looking at and explaining the specific stance and/or purpose of the writer
- Contextual knowledge should not be used to list all the information that is missing from the sources, unless omission was the aim of the author
- Contextual knowledge should be linked clearly to the material provided in the source
- Candidates should make use of the sources together at some point in the answer.

### Section B

- Spending a few minutes planning helps to ensure that the second order concept is correctly identified
- Candidates must provide more precise contextual knowledge as evidence. Weaker responses lacked depth and sometimes range
- Candidates should avoid a narrative/descriptive approach; this undermines the analysis that is required for the higher levels
- Candidates need to be aware of key dates as identified in the specification so that they can address the questions with chronological precision
- Candidates should try to explore the links between issues rather than merely present a list of factors.

## **Grade boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

