



Cambridge Pre-U

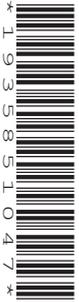
HISTORY

9769/58

Paper 5h Special Subject: Russia in Revolution, 1905–1924

May/June 2023

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **4** pages.

The February Revolution

Question 1

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

- A** *A liberal journalist working in Petrograd gives an appraisal of the situation in a newspaper article.*

Army and country have accepted the new Government practically unanimously; democracy has come to power. The Government is composed of the best men in the country. Every man and woman in Russia is now able to speak and work freely. It is possible to speak the truth about Russia. The old fear has vanished. There is room now for honesty. The possibilities are magnificent. The only cloud on the horizon is the chaotic fanaticism of the extremists. The Council of Workers' and Soldiers' deputies is an unwieldy body swayed by the Socialists, some of whom are moderate and reasonable. There are extremists eager to put their doctrines into immediate effect. But the forces of order and reason are very strong. The majority desire that new freedom should not be endangered by recklessness and the war should be brought to a brilliant finish.

Harold Williams, *News Chronicle*, 18 March 1917.

- B** *The British ambassador in Russia gives his view of the effect of the February Revolution.*

The Russian idea of liberty is to take things easily, to claim more wages, to demonstrate in the street and to waste time in talking and passing resolutions at public meetings. Ministers are working themselves to death and have the best intentions; but though I am always being told that they are becoming stronger, I see no signs of their asserting their authority. The Soviet continues to act as though it were the government. The military outlook is most discouraging. I am not optimistic for the future. Russia is not ripe for a purely democratic government and in the next few years we shall see a series of revolutions and counter-revolutions. A vast Empire like this will not hold together under a Republic.

Sir George Buchanan, Dispatch to the Foreign Office, 3 April 1917.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B about the effects of the February Revolution. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents. [10]

War Communism

Question 2

Study all the following documents C, D, E and F and answer the question which follows.

- C** *The Central Executive of the Communist Party specifies the Oath of the Red Warrior, a pledge to be taken by all enlistees and conscripts in the Red Army.*

I, son of the toiling people, citizen of the Soviet Republic, take the name of warrior in the Worker-Peasant Army.

I bind myself to observe strictest revolutionary discipline and to carry out the orders of the commanders appointed by the authority of the Workers' and Peasants' government.

I bind myself to restrain myself and restrain my comrades from all criminal acts unworthy of a citizen of the Soviet Republic and to have ever before me the great idea of freeing the toilers of the world.

I bind myself to defend the Soviet Republic from all dangers and against all her enemies, to fight for socialism, and for the brotherhood of man. For these causes, I bind myself to give my whole strength and life itself.

If, owing to evil influences, I fail to keep all my solemn promises, may my acts be looked upon with general contempt and may the heavy hand of the revolutionary law deal with me.

Oath, April 1918.

- D** *The Soviet Commissar for the Interior writes to local CHEKA units, ordering the expansion of the Red Terror.*

There has been an attempt to murder Lenin; there was shooting of tens of thousands of our comrades. We have discovered plots by counter-revolutionary scoundrels. But there have been few mass shootings of the White Guards and the bourgeoisie by the Soviets.

Our terror really does not yet exist. There must be an immediate end of our looseness and tenderness. All Right Socialist-Revolutionaries must be arrested immediately. Considerable numbers of hostages must be taken from among the bourgeoisie and the officers. Mass shooting of White Guards must be inflicted without hesitation. All the above-mentioned measures must be carried out immediately without the least wavering, nor the least indecision in the application of mass terror.

Grigor Petrovsky, Instructions, September 1918.

E *Lenin orders a 'reading book' for distribution to Russian workers and peasants.*

Assignment: a reading book for workers and peasants to be compiled within a fortnight. Wording must be very popular, designed for the ignorant peasant.

Subjects: organisation of Soviet power, its domestic and foreign policies. For example: What is Soviet power? How to run the country. The law on land. The economic councils. Nationalisation of the factories. Labour discipline. Imperialism. The imperialist war. Secret treaties. How we offered peace. What we are fighting for now. What is communism? Separation of the church from the state.

The reading book should provide material for public readings and home reading.

Lenin, Instructions, December 1918.

F *A Bolshevik leader writes of the development of 'new individuals' in Soviet society – particularly the transformation of Soviet women.*

The new Communist order is bringing new social relations among the people to create and educate new human beings. Everybody is ready to abuse and insult the Bolsheviks; only a few realise what a tremendous rebuilding task Bolshevism is performing for the benefit of humanity.

It is especially interesting to observe the change which is taking place among the women of the proletarians and peasants. Those hitherto treated like cattle have at last realised that they are human beings entitled to equal rights. They take part in the general struggle against capitalism, against exploitation and slavery in any form. The working women and the rural female population have begun to participate in the administration of farming. They sit in the Soviets and Executive Committees of various types and hold responsible positions, and are frequently seen armed, or nursing at the front.

There are institutions to help pregnant women and nursing mothers. There is support for women in infant asylums, in children's colonies, at vocational centres, in school kitchens, public dining rooms, tea houses, in hospitals, recreation centres, in aged and invalid homes, in public libraries, reading rooms, in propaganda centres for the spreading of communist ideas and general knowledge. A new life awakens the women of the proletariat and peasants; it gives them tasks and duties, experience and training; it transforms them into revolutionary fighters and co-workers of the Communistic Society.

Nikolai Bukharin, Article, July 1920.

How convincing is the evidence provided in this set of documents for the view that Bolshevik power chiefly relied on idealism in the years 1918 to 1920? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in the set (C–F). [30]

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