



AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1917

Paper 1H

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **1H**.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 or 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.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Extract A

Western historians view Alexander II's reforms as an important first step towards modernity. Economically, the peasants' situation was little changed. Other reforms significantly altered the social relationships of the old order. The government was very successful in steering its way between the various interest groups. But the reforms could not please everyone. The autocracy gained much from the reforms. It always held the whip hand, at the expense of the nobility. In the long term, however, the government too paid a heavy price for the inadequacies of the reforms. Some members of the nobility and intelligentsia were so disillusioned by the reforms that they became socialist revolutionaries. This was the most important of all the consequences of the reform era.

Adapted from D. Christian, **Power and Privilege**, 1986

Extract B

The reforms of the 1860s did represent a move towards modernising the Russian state, but they also proved to be a starting point for further calls for change. For the first time the principle was admitted that elected representatives should play an important part in the government of the empire. The solid autocratic front which the empire presented had been seriously breached. The nobility had developed a powerful sense of togetherness, with common attitudes. The old certainties of Russian society were destroyed. Russian society was fragmenting after 1855. Diversity and autonomy were becoming important characteristics of Russian society. The dynamics of Russian society were moving at a pace which the state could no longer regulate.

Adapted from P. Waldron, **The End of Imperial Russia 1855–1917**, 1997

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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 consequences of Alexander II's reforms?

[25 marks]

Section BAnswer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

EITHER**0 2**

'Backwardness in industry severely weakened the Russian economy in the years between 1861 and 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]**OR****0 3**

'The collapse of the tsarist regime in February 1917 was due to its continuing inability to retain the support of peasants and workers since the accession of Alexander III in 1881.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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