
A-level HISTORY

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

Paper 1E

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 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 **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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Bitter opposition to change, to new ideas, to foreign influences of all kinds, had been a force in Russia long before Peter was born. But both Peter's tastes and many of his policies were so uncompromising a break with the past, so gross a challenge to convention and traditional ideas of propriety, that they could not but intensify his subjects' resistance to change. In his creation of a great army and the new navy, in the building of the canals, harbours and the new capital, he imposed on Russia burdens unheard-of under his predecessors; burdens which no tsar of the true stamp, it was felt, would have asked his people to bear. Emotional rejection of foreign models and influences, genuine fear of the implications for Orthodoxy of many of Peter's policies, desperation engendered by the suffering resulting from the tsar's demands: all of these generated opposition. In the extreme form of active revolt this showed itself relatively rarely. But plots, abuse of the tsar as hopelessly corrupted by foreign influences, as an imposter, even as Antichrist, continued throughout much of Peter's reign.

Adapted from M S Anderson, *Peter the Great*, 1995**Extract B**

The most dramatic act of resistance to Peter's revolution in Russia was committed by his own son, Tsarevich Alexis. The conspirators yearned, in their own words, to return to "the ancient customs and to live after the old ways". They dreamed of burning St. Petersburg to the ground, of destroying the navy, and of killing or banishing the many foreigners occupying senior positions in the tsar's service. Peter and his government, their supporters and friends, had good cause to be apprehensive.

In fact, opposition in one form or another to Peter personally or to his policies was a continuous feature of his reign. All of Peter's measures affecting dress and personal appearance, holidays and the calendar, were part and parcel of his increasingly ambitious programme of cultural Europeanization – of bringing Russian cultural practices into conformity with those commonly followed in Europe. As such they provoked resistance among the groups most affected, seeming as they did to violate, without any clear justification, longstanding Russian customs. In short, Peter's many cultural innovations were at once the cause of, and an excuse for, much of the opposition to his regime.

Adapted from James Cracraft, *The Revolution of Peter the Great*, 2003

Extract C

Alexis enjoyed the sympathy of many members of the old nobility and suggested rumblings of discontent at the very heart of Peter's circle. Prior to Alexis's defection in 1716 leading men naturally thought it prudent to maintain at least discreet good relations with the heir to the throne. But many such men, by no means die-hard traditionalists, lived in fear of Peter and were weary of the unrelieved burdens of the war, which looked set to drag on for ever, with all the associated impositions of forced relocation to St. Petersburg, compulsory service for young nobles in the ranks and orders out of the blue to go on errands. There is no evidence of a conspiracy to restore Muscovite traditions; on the contrary, a few of Peter's associates may well have wished to extend the process of Westernisation to the political sphere, while reducing some of the pressures of war and reform. In this scenario, Alexis, so much less energetic and demanding than his father, begins to look like a suitable candidate as a constitutional monarch.

Adapted from Lindsey Hughes, *Peter the Great*, 2002

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

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

To what extent, in the years 1725 to 1762, were the nobility able to re-assert the independence they had lost under Peter the Great?

[25 marks]**0 3**

‘Catherine the Great was an Enlightened Despot.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

‘It was Catherine the Great who fulfilled Peter the Great’s foreign policy ambitions for Russia.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS**

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