

History

Answers and commentaries A-level (7042)

1E Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682 — 1796

Marked answers from students for questions from the June 2022 exams. Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

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Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written by the student and may contain errors in spelling and punctuation.

This resource is to be used alongside the A-level History Component 1E Russia in the age of Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682–1796 June 2022 Question paper and inserts.

Question 01

Question

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church.

[30 marks]

Mark scheme

- L5:** Shows a very good understanding of the interpretations put forward in all three extracts and combines this with a strong awareness of the historical context to analyse and evaluate the interpretations given in the extracts. Evaluation of the arguments will be well-supported and convincing. The response demonstrates a very good understanding of context. **25–30**
- L4:** Shows a good understanding of the interpretations given in all three extracts and combines this with knowledge of the historical context to analyse and evaluate the interpretations given in the extracts. The evaluation of the arguments will be mostly well-supported, and convincing, but may have minor limitations of depth and breadth. The response demonstrates a good understanding of context. **19–24**
- L3:** Provides some supported comment on the interpretations given in all three extracts and comments on the strength of these arguments in relation to their historical context. There is some analysis and evaluation but there may be an imbalance in the degree and depth of comments offered on the strength of the arguments. The response demonstrates an understanding of context. **13–18**
- L2:** Provides some accurate comment on the interpretations given in at least two of the extracts, with reference to the historical context. The answer may contain some analysis, but there is little, if any, evaluation. Some of the comments on the strength of the arguments may contain some generalisation, inaccuracy or irrelevance. The response demonstrates some understanding of context. **7–12**

L1: **Either** shows an accurate understanding of the interpretation given in one extract only **or** addresses two/three extracts, but in a generalist way, showing limited accurate understanding of the arguments they contain, although there may be some general awareness of the historical context. Any comments on the strength of the arguments are likely to be generalist and contain some inaccuracy and/or irrelevance. The response demonstrates limited understanding of context. **1-6**

Nothing worthy of credit.

0

Student responses

Response A

Extract A is convincing to a historian studying Peter's Church reforms as it highlights the reasons behind Peter creating the Holy Synod and how Peter could use the Church as a method to increase his absolutist power. For example, Massie states 'Peter the Great was concerned with the structure and role of the church as an institution.' Peter Despite having an Orthodox upbringing and being a firm believer in divine rule, Peter saw the Church as a way for him to extend his absolutist power. The church controlled welfare and education and Peter wanted to reform education and primitive skills such as mathematics and ship building. The church had opposed Peter's Great Embassy and the influence of foreigners on the Russian Tsar which hindered Peter's progress in Westernising Russia. In addition, Massie states the Church was also seen as a source of income and taxation for Peter. The vast wealth of the Church was used to finance Peter's wars, church bells were even taken so that they could be melted down for cannons, ~~Further more~~ Massie states that which makes this argument convincing. However, Massie states that Peter 'the Young Tsar was unable to get rid of his independence of the Church and the attitudes which the Patriarch represented.' This is convincing as despite the reforms Peter made, he was still a firm believer in the Orthodox religion.

and the need for Russia to protect Orthodoxy. In example, although Peter allowed foreigners to enter Russia and work, he did so permitted they did not try to influence Russia. Peter was also hostile towards Jews, and ~~but~~ & Peter still wanted to preserve Orthodoxy in Russia, despite how his reforms may have looked on the surface, this makes extract A convincing.

Extract B is convincing to a Historian studying Peter the Great's church reforms as it highlights the motivation for Peter's reforms. Shubin states: ~~the Russian view, the~~ "He viewed the ultimate goal of authority as the welfare and prosperity of society." At the time in Russia, the church controlled welfare as well as education.

Peter wanted to reform the education system in Russia and focus on subjects that would allow Russia to develop its own Navy, army, as well as have competent ~~own~~ Captains and reduce the need for foreign experts. Peter saw the Church as the institution stopping him from doing this. By making himself head of the Church Peter could control all of this and transferred the Church into another organ of the state, helping to increase his absolute power, making this extract convincing.

One way in which Shubin is unconvincing is the fact that Peter "utilised the example of Protestant Churches in the Western Reformation." Although Peter took a lot from different Western European governments, he still wanted to preserve Orthodoxy in Russia. The church was seen as a way of income and responsible for income ~~but it was~~ and it was these reasons why Peter brought the Church under the control of the Holy Dierarchy Synod. This makes extract B unconvincing, only partly convincing.

Extract C is ~~unconvincing~~ ^{unconvincing} to a historian studying Peter the Great

Church reforms as it does not fully outline the reasons for Peter the Great's reforms of the Church. Sumner agrees that 'Peter found the men who could raise the level of the Russian clergy' and together they initiated a whole programme of reform and set up a new body at the head of the Church, the 'Holy Governing Synod'. However, Peter wanted to use the Church for its resources and bring it under the control of the state, and having a Holy Governing Synod as opposed to a Patriarch would not hinder Peter in his efforts. The Holy Governing Synod was merely a way for Peter to extend his absolutism to the Church and use its resources, rather than Peter's reforms as being 'recognised as grappling with acknowledged evils within the church. This makes extract C convincing.

One way in which Extract C is convincing is the fact 'Peter the Great believed that Good government required good, God-fearing subjects.' This makes reference to Divine rule and the Social hierarchy. Peter was a firm believer in divine Rule

For Peter's absolutism to function, the people of Russia had to know he was chosen by God to rule, so they did not question his actions, as to oppose the Tsar was to oppose God. ~~Therefore~~
This makes Extract C only partially convincing.

This is a Level 4 response

The answer shows an understanding of the main arguments in each of the three extracts. Knowledge of the context is used to provide some balanced evaluation of each extract, although this is not fully developed. Examples of the context include Peter's absolutism, the influence of Westernisation and the Great Embassy, Peter's continuing religious belief and support for orthodoxy, and the financial significance of the Church to Peter's reforms. The answer is carefully structured to address both the strengths and the weaknesses of each extract. The explanations of the context could have been more developed. They are not fully convincing.

Response B

Extract A is ^{somewhat} convincing to a historian in relation to Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church. This is because Extract A is ~~telling~~ depicting that Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church and orthodoxy was to ~~resist~~ ^{resist} his autocracy through extract A's overall ~~very~~ negative tone. This is demonstrated in 'The Patriarchy had wielded considerable power when Peter came to the throne' prior to Peter the Great's succession to throne following the end of his ~~co-~~ co-reign at the time of Ivan's death. Previously, Tsars had followed traditional Muscovite traditions that saw the Tsar equal to the Patriarch with ^{the Patriarch} ~~no~~ being the ruler of the spiritual realm and ~~the~~ the Tsar the physical ruler' which granted Patriarch Nikon the ability to meddle in Peter's personal life expressed with his divorcing of his wife Tatiana Lefkemia and Adrian's disapproval. Therefore, at Patriarch Nikon's death in 1700 Peter the Great refused for another Patriarch to be elected and instead installed Stephen Yavorsky a 'puppet' he could manipulate that would allow him Peter to put the state church under state control so tap into their finances by placing them under the Ministry of War's with his 1721 Ecclesiastical Reforms. Therefore, Extract A is somewhat convincing / entirely convincing as Peter the Great was not solely on reforming the church to resist his autocracy as his Ecclesiastical Reforms of 1721 saw ^{Peter the Great} ~~him~~ able to tap into the church wealth into the church's wealth raising over 1 million roubles that went on war efforts.

Extract B is somewhat convincing ~~as to~~ in relation to Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church. This is because extract B's overall tone is ~~not~~ portraying that the reforms of the Russian Church and Orthodoxy was so being them under state control and use its finances exposed through its positive overall tone. This is demonstrated in 'the ~~true~~ true Church was not one that offered the correct path to gaining eternal salvation but the one that added value to the nation' as highlighted by Shulman. This is reference to Peter the Great's belief that everything done should benefit the state which in return benefits him. As a result, Peter the Great recognised the wealth the Russian church held which he used to cap into shown in his installation of Stephen Yavorsky following Patriarch Adrian's death in 1700 who he could manipulate as the Beaschabe to pass his Ecclesiastical Regulations in 1701 bringing ~~the~~ the Church's finances under the control of the state through the Monastery Affairs Palace and Holy Synod which benefitted the state by tapping into the wealth of the Russian ~~the~~ Church yielding over a million roubles which went to Peter the Great's war efforts. However, Extract B is not fully convincing as it fails to recognise that having the Church under state control was not ~~the~~ Peter the Great's only aim as it was partly Westernisation and restoring his ~~own~~ authority exemplified with his changing of the calendar to follow the rest of Europe and his refusal to elect another Patriarch ~~due to the~~ or after Adrian's death in 1700 due to the similar power they have to Tsars which Extract B does not make reference to.

Extract C is ~~valuable~~ ^{fully} convincing in relation to Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church. This is because extract C is portraying that the ~~Reforms~~ reforms of Peter the Great of the Russian Church followed the basis of Westernisation to bring it in line with the rest of Europe. However, Extract C differs to Extract A and B because they recognise different reasons for Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church not primarily being driven by Westernisation through its overall positive and negative tone. Positive demonstrated in 'Peter found here men who could raise the level of the Russian clergy' as identified by Sumner. This is ~~not~~ reference to Peter the Great's reforms of religion that looked ~~forward~~ ^{to Peter} to follow the rest of Europe through Peter the Great encouraging dignitaries from Ukraine to come to monasteries and assist with changing the Russian orthodoxy. ~~This is reference to the~~ Peter the Great wanting to follow the religion of the west and for Russia to keep up. On the other hand, Extract C depicts a ~~counter~~ counter-argument in 'others were recognised as grappling with acknowledged evils within the Church'. Peter the Great recognised that the Russian Church had a lot of wealth which could benefit the state, but due to their secularisation meant that it was unboundable, ~~or~~ or they followed their own judicials and were separate from the state. Peter the Great's 1811 Ecclesiastical Reforms being them under the control of the ~~the~~ holy synod and Monastery to ~~tap~~ tap up into their finances which contributed to the end of his ~~very~~ reign Peter the Great going from 3 billion roubles to 8 billion roubles.

Therefore, ¹³ ~~the~~ Extract 1 is full convincing in relation to Peter the Great's reforms of the Russian Church as it recognises positives and negatives ~~and~~ through Peter the Great's other reasons for his reforms.

This is a Level 3 response

The answer provides some comment, with contextual support, on the interpretations given in the extracts, but does not show good understanding of the arguments. Extract A is the stronger in terms of the grasp of the argument, with relevant evidence cited in support and some balance, with the recognition that the reforms were also about raising money for the Tsar. The commentary on Extract B cites from the extract and comments on the utility of the church to Peter only in general terms. The balance is less secure, as it is attempted with reference to Westernisation which is included in the argument. Extract C is the least securely understood: for example, the influence of the Church in Ukraine. Overall, there is an understanding of context and some supported comment on the three extracts but an imbalance in the strength of the arguments.

Question 02

Question

To what extent did the conservatism of Russian society hinder the development of the Russian economy in the reign of Peter the Great?

[25 marks]

Mark scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21–25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16–20**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the question and will supply a range of largely accurate information, which will show an awareness of some of the key issues and features, but may, however, be unspecific or lack precision of detail. The answer will be effectively organised and show adequate communication skills. There will be a good deal of comment in relation to the question and the answer will display some balance, but a number of statements may be inadequately supported and generalist. **11–15**
- L2:** The answer is descriptive or partial, showing some awareness of the question but a failure to grasp its full demands. There will be some attempt to convey material in an organised way, although communication skills may be limited. There will be some appropriate information showing understanding of some key features and/or issues, but the answer may be very limited in scope and/or contain inaccuracy and irrelevance. There will be some, but limited, comment in relation to the question and statements will, for the most part, be unsupported and generalist. **6–10**
- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1–5**

Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Student responses

Response A

When Peter inherited the Russian throne, Russia was weak, isolated and backwards as a country. Peter the Great's rapid westernisation and endless warring put great strain on the economy of Russia as it struggled to provide for the needs of war. Over Peter's reign, the conservatism of Russia hindered the development of the Russian economy for example the dependence on serfdom in a largely agrarian society and the lack of a creation of a middle class.

One way in which conservatism hindered the development of Russia's economy was the dependence of serfdom and cottage industries. At the time of Peter coming to the throne, Russia still had serfdom whilst many of the countries in Western Europe still had abolished it. Serfdom meant the economy struggled to grow and expand as there was no working class that could spend money how they worked, instead they had to work their nobles' land or work in little cottage industries. One example in which Peter's economic reforms were hindered was his encouragement for Russian cottage industries to provide luxuries for the Russian court, including glass and velvet. Looms were given to nobles for serfs to produce such commodities and even tariffs were placed at 60-70% on these foreign goods to encourage Russian nobles to buy from these cottage industries, however it failed. The lack of a working class and free labour meant that there was little growth in this area. Russia's dependence on its agrarian society hindered Peter the Great's desire for self-sufficiency. In addition, the rejection of scythes for the sickle reduced profits in the farming. Serfs disliked the new scythe and opted for the less efficient sickle, this is a key example of conservatism hindering the Russian society. However, serfdom helped keep costs of farming low

as they had ~~free~~^{cheap} labour. This is one way in which Conservatism helped the Russian economy, but on the whole, self-denial hindered growth of the economy in the long run and is a way Conservatism hindered ~~ec.~~ the development of the economy.

One way in which the Russian economy did develop was the forced industrialisation catalysed by the Great Northern war. To replace all of the field artillery lost at Narva, Peter opened foundries in the urals and other places to produce iron and steel. This forced industrialisation helped kickstart the industrial revolution in Russia and by the end of Peter's reign, Russia was a net exporter of iron. In addition the opening of ports in St Petersburg helped increase trade and create a merchant class. Peter even offered tax breaks to nobles who wanted to start businesses to do with foundries however very few did. State driven developments in the Economy was the main driving force of economic change, there was still no credit system established and very little heed was made in regards to the farming industry. Although there was developments to the economy, the still lacked a middle class but overall the Russian economy did develop despite Conservatism.

Another way in which the Russian economy was hindered ^{by Conservatism} was the lack of middle class in Russia. The nobility did not invest in steel and coal as they believed that Russia was meant to be a mainly agrarian economy, focusing on farming and cottage industries. Nobles had ~~little money~~. But nobles had little money as most of their wealth was in their land and their serfs. Money would be spent buying serfs rather than investing in business. These conservative attitudes prevented a Russian middle class emerging; instead of investing into developments in Agriculture or the new foundries money would

go die wie. The lack of a credit system exacerbated this problem and prevented a real economy to emerge. It was only government led intervention that brought about economic change and the conservatism hindered development.

In Conclusion, the lack of a middle class and the failure to abolish serfdom meant the Russian economy was slowed. These conservative ideas meant less money was invested into businesses and no real credit system was established. Despite Peter the Great's mercantilist policies and forced industrialisation, Russia's conservatism of Russian society hindered economic growth.

This is a Level 4 response

The answer shows an understanding of the nature of Russian society and the impact on the economy. Good understanding of the demands of the question is shown in the opening comments and the answer is analytical and balanced. There is a range of comment, with examples of conservative attitudes amongst the nobles, middle classes and peasants, and a grasp of the impact of serfdom on economic growth. There is also recognition, as a counter argument, that the ability of Peter to direct the economy to meet the needs of the military was a stimulus for growth. This part of the answer is less well-developed and could have been made more explicit to the question asked.

Response B

The conservatism of Russian society barely hindered the development of the Russian economy in the reign of Peter the Great. This is because through Peter the Great's reign he was able to invest quite a lot in economic projects. This is demonstrated in Peter the Great being able to set up the School of Navigation in 1701, School of Medicine 1705, and the School of Mathematics 1704 which would've been impossible due to Russia's participation in the Great Northern War. Furthermore, the development of St. Petersburg in 1703 gave Peter the Great access to an ice-free port in the Black Sea (sic) which acted as a vital point for Russia to trade with the rest of Europe, was not limited by Russian societies conservatism as Peter the Great by the end of his reign being able to raise Russian finance to 8 billion roubles through the success implementation of his reforms. Furthermore, this is contributed by the Russian Church who Peter was able to secure his wealth from in 1721 through his ecclesiastical reforms which brought the Churches finances under state control through the Monasteries Prikhaz which yielded over 1 million roubles. The Russian Orthodox church being the most conservative in Muscovite tradition, Peter the Great was able to make use of their wealth for his economic development.

Therefore, Russian societies conservatism barely impacted on the development of the Russian economy in the reign of Peter the Great during his reign.

On the other hand, conservatism can be seen as hindering the development of the Russian economy in the reign of Peter the Great. This is because Muscovite tradition saw the serfs who made up 90% Russia's population remain illiterate with under 10% of them being able to write. This made it difficult for Peter the Great to introduce his agricultural western reforms as it saw no change due to the serfs sticking to the traditional muscovite ways of farming. Furthermore, the Noble tradition of inheritance saw land within Russia survive as it was being divided up getting smaller and smaller. The impact of this on the development of Russia's economy is it meant that industries such as steel could not flourish due to their hardly being land. Therefore, Peter's 1714 Ukaz attempted to tackle this problem through Single Inheritance. However, Peter's economic developments were hindered by his inability exercise his full autocracy of the entirety of Russia which was too vast. Thus, the further away the Russian people were the less likely they had to follow Peter the Great's economic reforms severely hindering the development of the Russian economy.

This is a Level 3 response

The answer shows an awareness of the issue, with the argument that Peter played a direct role in promoting economic growth in that he was 'able to invest'. There is also a recognition that conservatism hampered the economy. The supporting information about economic change, and the impact of serfdom and landholdings, lacks precision and is not always made explicit to the question asked. The answer has some balance, and a range of comment, but there is some loss of focus, and a number of statements are inadequately supported.

Get help and support

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