



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1A/C: Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and communism

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

Interpretation A NN Sukhanov in his book about the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 which was published in 1922.

Sukhanov was a Social Revolutionary who supported the formation of the Provisional Government following the abdication of the Tsar.

Lenin sounded dogmatic and dictatorial. I agreed with those who thought he had lunatic ideas, and I saw him as a lone man, isolated, standing outside the main group of revolutionaries. In 1917 he was so unacceptable to everyone that he did not seem at all dangerous. We never thought for a minute that Lenin would be able to conquer the revolution, the masses, the whole Soviet or even his own Bolsheviks.

Interpretation B From a book written by Leon Trotsky called 'A History of the Russian Revolution'. It was published in 1930.

Trotsky was a Bolshevik leader during the October/November Revolution and during the period of Lenin's rule.

How important was Lenin? Can we say that the revolution would not have happened without him? No. But it is true that Lenin greatly speeded up the process. Lenin was much more clear-sighted than his comrades, and it happened that he understood better than others what was needed. If he had not managed to come to Petrograd, the October Revolution would not have taken place when it did.

END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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