

6.6 MODERN WORLD STUDY: YELTSIN'S RUSSIA

Objectives Being Assessed

Recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge of the syllabus content.

Describe, analyse and explain:

- the events, changes and issues studied;
- the key features and characteristics of the periods, people, societies or situations studied.

Assignment

Study the sources and the background sheet on 'The History of Modern Russia (1917–1992).

“There is a general feeling amongst those I meet here that (modern) Russia is as rotten as the Communist state it replaced.” (Michael Palin, during his visit to Russia in 1997.)

- Do you think that a Russian today would be more contented living in Yeltsin's Russia, than living under Communist rule? Give your reasons for this answer.
- Look at the sources carefully. Explain how far you think these sources give an accurate picture of life in modern Russia since the end of communism.

Advice to Candidates

Marks will be given as follows.

Question 1

Marks 1–3

You will be given these marks if you give a general answer with no real reference made to the sources. More marks will be given if you look at a few sources, but fail to investigate the Communist past or present-day Russia in any detail, or come to any sort of conclusion.

Marks 3–10

You will gain this middle range of marks if you can analyse and explain key features of the Communist past and Russian present. Also if you have tried to make a valid conclusion based upon the possible Russian attitudes towards past and present Russia.

Marks 10–15

You recognise that there may be a range of different attitudes towards present-day Russia and the communist Russia of the past. Use the majority of sources in evidence and ideas/written work has been organised well. Conclusions based upon the different attitudes are included in the assignment.

Question 2

Marks 1–3

You show you have understood the information in the source and believe it to be accurate. You might question whether a source/sources are biased but no real attempt at evaluation is made.

Marks 4–7

You evaluate some of the sources and come to a limited conclusion based upon your findings.

Marks 8–10

The majority of the sources have been evaluated and a conclusion has been reached based upon the evaluation that has been made.

Source D

'Yeltsin's tempted to ignore Parliament (the elected Assembly of Russia) because they opposed the reforms that were going on. Russians have a word for seizing power in the people's name - Communism.'

From the English newspaper 'The Observer' 1993.

(In 1993 Yeltsin overturned the authority of the Russian Parliament because they opposed the changes he was introducing. The Parliament especially objected to the raising of food and power prices that had caused so much hardship. Communist members of the Parliament rebelled. Yeltsin used the army to destroy the Parliament building. Yeltsin used the army to destroy the Parliament building and arrested the leading members of the rebel group.

Source E

'The appearance of the shops is being transformed ... today private shops are clean and cheerfully painted ... state shops are also being brightened up ... the fruit and vegetables are being arranged in attractive and colourful patterns ...'

From the English newspaper 'The Times' 1994

Source F

'HEADLINE: SUE ARNOLD REPORTS FROM ST PETERSBURG ON HOW ONE FAMILY IS FACING UP TO THE NEW YEAR.'

'Irina bought her Christmas tree yesterday ... (it) cost 200 roubles, about 33p but less of a snip when you learn that Irina's teacher's salary is 4,000 roubles a month - less than £7. Inflation is currently running at 350% ... Sergei bought his Lada (Russian built car) some years ago for 7,000 roubles. Today it would cost him 2,000,000.

Irina's mother lives in what is called disdainfully a "Khrushchev" flat, built in the sixties ... (it has) a low ceilinged pokiness. It is built out of poor materials and worst of all has no loo.

In the summer of 1991, there were five people in Sergei's company ... Now there are one hundred with all the accompanying risks of prosperity ... They have just been landed with a tax bill of 8,000,000 roubles which will wipe out their profits ...'

From the English newspaper, 'The Observer' 1994.

Source G

Since 1991 there has been a tremendous growth in crime in Russia. Russian crime is dominated by the Mafia who are involved in protection rackets, drugs, smuggling and other criminal activities



Rough ride: Businessmen need both a bodyguard and an 'analyst' to detect murder plots./Photograph by Jeremy Nicholl.

'... in St Petersburg ... organised crime is in total control of the city's commercial life, with the power to manipulate politicians and corrupt judges ... the Mafia has infiltrated all centres of power ... Large sections of the police force have been bought ... A week later (a Mafia man) takes me for a daylight ride ... to his playground, a complex of stables and paddocks with an unusual addition. On the far side is a concrete windowless shack which acts as his private jail. "One man was in there six months because he owed us a large sum of money. Didn't want to pay up. He changed his mind in the end."

Dealing with the Mafia is blindingly straightforward. Cross them once and they lock you up or maim you. Cross them a second time and they will kill you. Most Russians are aware that organised crime is imposing level of control beyond anything attempted by the communists.

Last year there were 1,920 murders in Moscow ... Many of the killings were carried out by Mafia hit men ...

3rd March 1995

Russia mourned the murder of a popular TV personality ... he was shot in the head and the shoulder by an assailant armed with a pistol and a silencer ... it was a professional killing ... To many Russians he was the man who refused to be frightened by the Mafia ... The Mafia clearly feared Mr Listyev who would have banned TV advertising on Public Russian Television ... the multi million rouble TV advertising industry is dominated by the Mafia who were keen to make money out of the new TV station.'

From the English newspaper 'The Times' (1995).

Source H

'Everything has a price now - education, housing fuel, and its' a price most Russians cannot afford ... the sharp, unscrupulous and the aggressive are the new top dogs. At the Ocean Hotel we have a glimpse of them.

Halfway through dinner sounds (are heard) in the kitchen. Breaking of crockery, raised voices.... A waitress backs through the door followed by a big lurching heavyweight in light blue denim jacket and trousers. He makes a grab for her and a vodka bottle. He misses both and a stack of other bottles crashing to the floor. Leaving the waitress to clear up the mess he turns his aggression to the band ... The thug leans against the stage and stares up at them menacingly. There is a flurry of wrong notes. Then (the thug) leaps up onto the stage, head butts one of the amplifiers and, flinging aside the drum kit, pursues the band backstage. Assorted cries and thuds are heard ... no one from the staff has lifted a finger to restrain him ...

(I find out later) that the man who did the damage is well known. They say he often comes here, collecting protection money for the local Mafia.'

From the book 'Full Circle' by Michael Palin (pub 1997)

Source J



Picture showing Russian Orthodox priests in a procession through Moscow. Since the death of Communism there has been a rebirth in this form of Christianity. Under communism, religion was officially banned. Orthodox Christians worshipped secretly fearing punishment.

Source K

'Sergei, a thirty seven year old Moscow man ... has left his factory job and set up his own business. Since he left working for the government, his salary has tripled ...

...officials have become even greedier than they were under communism ..."I give bribes at every step," a store director said. "You can't get anything without bribes. If I get cigarettes ten per cent goes to the supplier ..."

From a book 'The Commonwealth of Independent States' by M Clark (pub 1993)

Source L



Two different pictures of modern Russia. On the left a street trader in Moscow takes advantage of the new freedom to sell Communist mementos to tourists. On the right an elderly Russian woman weeps as she waits to buy milk at 8 roubles per litre. A few months earlier it was 1.5 roubles.

6.7 MODERN WORLD STUDY: THE IRISH QUESTION

What are the chances of peace in 1999?

This is your first coursework assignment in GCSE History. It is worth 12.5% of the final grade and you will be given a mark out of 25 for it.

The Modern World Study is designed to show the connection between past and present; it focuses on a problem or issue from current world events. We have studied The Irish Question and you have been able to see how the present situation can only be understood through a knowledge of past events in Ireland.

There is one assessment objective being targeted in this assignment. Read the following information about it carefully; it will help you see how you can be successful in your work.

Objective 1: Recall, select, organise and use knowledge from the Ireland module. Describe, analyse and explain events, changes and issues studied **and** key features/characteristics of the periods, people, societies and situations studied.

TASK

Answer the questions which are on the back of this sheet. You have your exercise book and the Modern Ireland textbook to help you in your answers.

Good luck!

What are the chances of peace in 1999?

1. What are the main differences between the beliefs of the Republicans/Nationalists and the Loyalists/Unionists? (5 marks)
2. Choose two events from the last 400 years, which are particularly important in shaping the views of:
 - a) The Loyalists/Unionists/Protestants
 - b) The Republicans/Nationalists/Catholics.

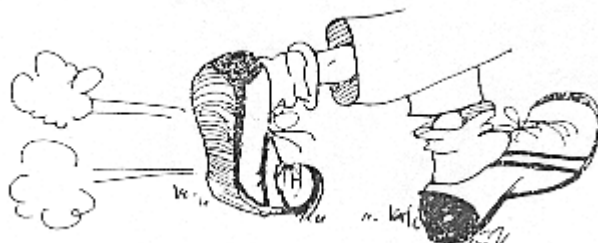
Explain your answer carefully. Think about the images you see on posters, banners and wall paintings.

You may use the same example in both sections. (8 marks)

3. Previous attempts to bring peace to Northern Ireland have failed. What problems will need to be overcome if the current peace talks in 1999 are to succeed?

In your answer you should consider:

- two previous attempts at peace in your lifetime;
- the breakthroughs that have been made;
- the problems that still exist. (12 marks)



Mark Scheme

Objective 1 is to determine the level of the answer: describe, analyse and explain events, changes and issues studied AND key features/characteristics of the periods, people, societies and situations studied.

Objective 1 is to determine the mark within the level: recall, select, organise and use knowledge from the Ireland module.

1. What are the main differences between the beliefs of the Republicans/Nationalists and the Loyalists/Unionists?

Level 1 **Identifies valid beliefs.** (1–2 marks)

E.g. wants to stay part of UK.

Level 2 **Describes range of beliefs.** (2–3 marks)

Describes beliefs in detail; may make simple comparisons.

Level 3 **Compares beliefs of different groups.** (4–5 marks)

Direct comparison of the beliefs, understanding that both sides have differences within them, e.g. between IRA and SDLP.

2. Choose two events from the last 400 years, which are particularly important in shaping the views of:

a) The Loyalists/Unionists/Protestants;

b) The Republicans/Nationalists/Catholics.

Level 1 **Identifies valid event(s) for (a) (b).** (1 mark)

E.g. the Famine, Battle of the Boyne.

Level 2 **Describes valid events for (a)(b).** (2–3 marks)

Matches event (a)(b) accurately; briefly describes.

No explanation of how it shaped views.

Level 3 **Explains how events shaped views.** (4–6 marks)

Explains why each event is important to (a)(b) and how event affects present day views.

Level 4 **Explains significance of events for one sector within (a), (b).** (7–8 marks)

Differentiates views/opinions within (a)(b).

OR

Chooses same event for (a) and (b) and explains implications for both communities.

E.g. Act of Union, Troops in 1969.

3. Previous attempts to bring peace to Northern Ireland have failed. What problems will need to be overcome if the current peace talks in 1999 are to succeed?

- Level 1 **Valid general assertions.** (1–2 marks)
E.g. religious differences must be overcome, violence must stop, hatred/distrust must cease.
No support given from either sources or contextual knowledge.
- Level 2 **Uses sources or contextual knowledge to identify previous attempts/ progress/issues causing problems.** (3–5 marks)
E.g. Identifies points in sources that cause problems e.g. end to Republic's claim to Northern Ireland, inter-governmental conference set up. Or identifies past events which cause problems e.g. Bloody Sunday, marching tradition. Award 5–6 marks only if considers both sides (Nationalist and Unionist).
- Level 3 **Uses sources and contextual knowledge to describe previous attempts/ progress/issues causing problems.** (6–9 marks)
Can describe issues arising from the sources and from past events that relate to previous attempts/progress/problems.
Award 9–10 marks only if considers both sides.
- Level 4 **Uses sources and contextual knowledge to explain previous attempts/ progress/issues causing problems.** (10–12 marks)
Produces well argued analysis of the issues, explaining the obstacles standing in the way of peace talks and a permanent solution.