

Annotated Scripts

Level 2 History 2006

AS 90470 Examine individual or group identity in an historical setting, in an essay

Achievement (GP.H, A3)

The script identifies some factors that contributed to the formation of the group identity of the 'workers' in the historical setting of the 'Russian Revolution'. These include 'poor working and living conditions' and the 'ignorance of the Tsar'. The factors have been described in several paragraphs.

The script identifies 'protests' and 'revolution' as ways the identity of the workers was expressed. These have been described in several paragraphs.

The script identifies 'suppression' and a 'shared sense of suffering' as characteristics of the 'workers' identity. These have been described and substantiated within the body of the text.

The script satisfies the structural and organisational criterion to achievement standard. It provides an introduction and conclusion that clearly address the components of the question. The information and ideas are organised to demonstrate cause and effect. The sum of these factors constituting an appropriate essay format.

ESSAY TOPIC:

What factors contributed to the formation of a distinctive sense of identity that was expressed by a significant individual or group in one of the topics you have studied this year?

What were the characteristics of this identity, and what actions did this significant individual or group take to express their identity?

Plan your essay here:

Selected topic or setting Russian Revolution	Selected individual or group Workers.
Characteristics of the individual's or group's identity - suppressed	
Factors that enabled an individual or group to develop a sense of identity - poor working + living conditions	
Actions the individual or group took to show their distinctive sense of identity - protests - revolution	

Begin your essay here:

In the Russian Revolution of 1904 many factors contributed to the formation of a distinctive sense of identity expressed by the workers of Russia. These factors included their shared sense of suffering caused by a lack of human rights and atrocious working and living conditions. The main characteristic of this identity was their shared sense of suffering they discovered ~~they~~ when they moved from their isolated villages into the crowded cities. They expressed this identity in the form of mass protests that severely affected the nation's production.

As the cities of Russia ~~grew~~ expanded the industrial revolution began. During this time peasants moved in great numbers from the country to the cities to work in factories. Here the workers were subjected to poor conditions, both in the factories and in the factory houses where they slept.

The factories were extremely overcrowded and working hours very long. Many workers were forced to stand for the entire length of their 16 or 17 hour shift. Conditions in the living areas were not any better. Severe overcrowding resulted in beds having to be used in shifts, often by people of no relation. The workers' factories and houses were dirty and there was poor sanitation. This

combined with over-crowding resulted in many falling ill.

Escalating the problem was the lack of human rights for the workers. There was no limit to how long they could be made to work and there was no minimum wage. As a result workers barely made enough to survive themselves, let alone support their families. They were also denied freedom of speech and freedom of association.

Although conditions were bad, they were similar to the conditions they suffered in the country. They worked just as hard and earned just as little. The only thing that had changed was they were no longer in small isolated groups. This was a huge factor in contributing to the development of their sense of identity as now that they were all grouped together they realised that they were not alone in their suffering.

The people of Russia loved the Tsar. They viewed him as their little father - God being their big father. While living in villages in the country they honestly believed that the Tsar Nicholas II was not aware of their plight, otherwise he would have intervened. On coming together in the cities they realised that the problem of poverty was so widespread that it would be

Impossible for the Tsar to not act once he was made aware of the problem.

To remedy this thousands of workers - led by father Gaspon - marched peacefully towards the Tsar's residence, the Winter Palace, to deliver to him a petition explaining their plight and requesting some changes to be made to the law to ensure them their basic human rights.

This peaceful march was met with violence by the palace guards - with kossaks firing into the crowd. Hundreds of innocent and peaceful demonstrators - many holding posters expressing their love for the Tsar - were murdered.

This event became known as Bloody Sunday and was a huge blow to the workers - as they realised for the first time that their little father did not care of their plight.

Following this the workers organised themselves into unions, in itself an illegal act, and held mass organised strikes that crippled the country's economy. The strikes were ^{so effective as they were} held in multiple factories in multiple cities all at the same time, effectively disabling multiple

every major Russian city for a set period of time.

~~The~~ Although effective at making their position clear the Tsar reacted poorly, opting to send in troops to crush the protests by force.

The sheer number of workers ~~gave them~~ made them determined to resist, and it was this refusal to submit that resulted in a Revolutionary war ~~between~~^{of} the working and peasant classes of Russian society against the ~~the~~ autocratic Tsar Nicholas ~~the~~ the second.

The industrial Revolution provided the situation for the workers of Russia to converge and realise their shared sense of suffering. The workers became a distinctive group of Russian society and came to express their actions in a number of ways; including massive organised strikes, the formation of unions, and eventually the participation in a Revolutionary war that overthrew the autocratic system of government.