



AS HISTORY

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Component 1H Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Wednesday 14 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7041/1H.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

Alexander II was not a 'Tsar Reformer'. He was lacking in determination. From boyhood, Alexander had been easily discouraged by obstacles in his path. As Tsar he was inclined to agree with the last person he had spoken to. Alexander II's values came from those of his father. As a result, Alexander was committed to upholding autocracy, the nobility, and Russian military might. The Tsar's view of the world was thoroughly conservative. He did not believe in progress. His head of Secret Police, however, had spelled out clearly to Alexander that the tension between the serfs and the nobility was a time bomb which threatened the whole Empire. 5

Adapted from E Acton, *Russia: The Tsarist and Soviet Legacy*, 1995

Extract B

Tsar Alexander II himself was the initiator of the reforms in Russia. He imposed his will on the nobility. Alexander II embarked on reform, which started with the Emancipation Edict, because he was a military man who recognised the lessons of the Crimean War. He was also an emperor, and the prestige and the greatness of the state was his most important consideration. Aspects of his character played a significant role, including his kindness and his concern for humanity. He was also influenced by his education, and he became a reformer in response to the demands of the time. His character, upbringing, and world outlook equipped him with sufficient understanding of the situation to recognise the need for reform. 5

Adapted from L Zakharova, *The Cambridge History of Russia*, Volume 2, 2008

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the role of Alexander II in reforming Russia?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

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'In the years 1881 to 1894, Alexander III strengthened the Tsarist regime.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

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'In the years 1894 to 1914, Russian industry was transformed.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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