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# AS HISTORY

Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Component 2N The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin, 1917–1929

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Monday 19 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 7041/2N.
- 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.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From the comments of a peasant from Samara province (central west Russia) speaking to Trotsky, March 1920. This account was published in Trotsky's writings, 1920.

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**Source A is a peasant describing the Cossack Whites as greedy and unscrupulous.**

**Source B**

From a letter sent to General Anton Denikin by General Peter Wrangel, 9 December 1919. Both Denikin and Wrangel were White Army Generals in the south of Russia.

The continual advance has reduced the effective force of our army. Vast numbers of troops are not engaged in fighting and there is considerable disorganisation. The war is becoming, for some, a means of growing rich through robbery and crime. Each army unit strives to secure as much equipment as possible for itself and seizes everything that comes to hand. What cannot be used is sold at a profit. The Army is absolutely demoralised and is fast becoming a collection of tradesmen and profiteers. Many officers are away on prolonged missions, busy selling and exchanging loot. Nearly all have enormous sums of money in their possession; as a result, there has been an outbreak of gambling, immorality and wild behaviour.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why the White armies were defeated in the Russian Civil War?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

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

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**Either**

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‘Nicholas II’s abdication was due to his government’s failure to deal with the strikes and demonstrations in Petrograd in February/March 1917.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

|   |   |
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‘The use of propaganda was crucial for Stalin’s rise to power in the years 1924 to 1929.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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