
AS Unit F982 – Non-British History

Study Topic 4: Russia in Turmoil 1900–1921

Candidates will demonstrate and apply their understanding of different kinds of historical explanation to the following ideas, actions and events contributing to years of turmoil in Russia between 1900 and 1921.

The 1905 Revolution

Candidates will use their knowledge of the background to the so-called ‘revolution’ of 1905 to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, why competing needs and ideologies brought Tsar, revolutionaries, workers and peasants into conflict; why Nicholas II committed the blunder that resulted in ‘Bloody Sunday’; or why, despite this, the ‘revolution’ eventually failed.

Russia 1905–14: An Enlightened Despotism?

Candidates will use their knowledge of developments between 1904 and 1914 to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, how far the October Manifesto marked a change in Tsarist ideas and attitudes; the importance of the assassination of Stolypin as a cause of the downfall of the Romanovs; or why, despite pressing domestic problems, Nicholas took Russia into the First World War.

1917: The ‘February Revolution’

Candidates will use their knowledge of events surrounding the February Revolution of 1917 to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, whether longer-term social and economic factors, shorter-term factors such as military failures and the incompetence of Nicholas II, or the immediate collapse of Tsarist authority in Petrograd brought Russia to the point of revolution and propelled the abdication of the Tsar on 15 March 1917.

1917: The Provisional Government and the October Revolution

Candidates will use their knowledge of Kerensky’s Provisional Government to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, why the Provisional Government was unable to satisfy workers and peasants; why the promises of the Bolsheviks held more appeal; or why Kerensky’s government was unable to survive the crisis months of March–October 1917.

1917: The ‘October Revolution’

Candidates will use their knowledge of the actions of Lenin and the Bolsheviks during 1917 to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, why the Bolshevik leadership was not prepared to follow Lenin into revolution in March 1917 but did so in November; how Lenin justified revolution in his *April Theses*; the roles of Lenin and Trotsky between April and November 1917; why the October *coup* was successful; or what *kind* of revolution this was.

The Consolidation of Bolshevik Power 1917–21

Candidates will use their knowledge of the actions of the Bolshevik Government between 1917 and 1921 to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked to explain, for example, how far the new leaders of Russia were true to their Marxist roots; why Lenin agreed to sign the treaty of Brest Litovsk; why he presided over the Red Terror and War Communism and ordered the execution of the Tsar and his family at Ekaterinburg in 1918; or how and why the Civil War (1918–21) occurred and why it ended in victory for the Red Army.