

Essay Questions: Russia 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

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Note: The Section A&B questions have been organised into the four key themes of the course content, 1917-1985.

| Themes | AS LEVEL QUESTIONS | A-LEVEL QUESTIONS |
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| <p>Theme One: Communist Government in the USSR, 1917-1985</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Was terror the main method by which the Bolshevik leadership exercised control over the Party between 1917 and 1924? Explain your answer. (Pearson, p.21) ● How far did Stalin's use of terror during the 1930s differ from that of Lenin's? (Pearson, p.25) ● How accurate is it to say that the political system put in place by the Communists after 1949 was authoritarian rather than democratic? (Pearson, p.4) ● How accurate is it to say that in the years 1928-1980, the government of the USSR relied wholly on repression? (Hodder, p.vii) ● How far was Stalinism a continuation of Leninism? (Hodder, p.27) ● Was political stagnation the main consequence of Brezhnev's rejection of reform? Explain your answer. (Hodder, p.39) ● To what extent were Khrushchev's reforms successful in the years 1953-1964? (Hodder, p.39) ● Was Khrushchev's limited reform of the Soviet government the main reason for the regime's growing political stagnation in the years 1964-82? (2016 AS Exam, Q2) ● Was Stalin's elimination of his opponents in government and party the main reason for his power in the USSR in the years 1928-53? Explain your answer. (Edexcel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To what extent did Stalin's power over the Party change between 1928 and 1953? (Pearson, p.30) ● How far was Khrushchev able to bring about fundamental change to the system of government established by Stalin? (Pearson, p.35) ● To what extent did Stalin's power over the Party change between 1928 and 1953? (Pearson, p.4) ● How accurate is it to say that in the years 1928-1980, the government of the USSR relied wholly on terror? (Hodder, p.vii) ● How accurate is it to say that Russia was a totalitarian state in the years 1928-1941? (Hodder, p.14) ● How far do the changes of 1921 explain Stalin's increasing domination of the Communist Party in the period 1928-1953? (Hodder, p.26) ● Were Stalin's purges of the 1930s the main reason for his power in the USSR in the years 1928-1953? (Hodder, p.27) ● How far did de-Stalinisation change the nature of the Soviet politics in the years 1955-1985? (Hodder, p.39) ● How far do you agree that Soviet politics were transformed in the years 1953-1985? (Hodder. p.39) ● How far did the fundamental features of Stalin's government of the USSR remain in place from 1953 to 1985? (Hodder, p.81) ● How accurate is it to say that widespread political terror was a constant feature of Soviet government in the years 1921-1953? (Hodder, p.93) ● How accurate is it to say that the period 1964-1985 were years of complete stagnation? (Hodder, p.94) ● How accurate is it to say that the Soviet Government was stable and successful in the years 1945-1982? (Hodder, p.119) ● How accurate is it to say that the Soviet Government was totalitarian in the period 1964-1984? (Hodder, p.143) ● How far did the fundamental features of Lenin's government of the USSR remain in place under Stalin? (Edexcel SAMS) |

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| | <p>SAMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Brezhnev's style of leadership the main reason for growing political stagnation in the USSR in the years 1964-1982? (Pearson, p.140). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent did the essential features of Communist government change in the years 1917–53? (Edexcel SAMS 2017) |
| <p>Theme Two: Industrial and Agricultural Change, 1917-1985</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How far would you agree that the Five-Year Plans had transformed the Soviet economy by 1953? (Pearson, p.53) Was the failure of Khrushchev's agricultural policies the main reason for economic problems in the USSR in 1964-1985? (Pearson, p.60) How accurate is it to say that Lenin's economic policies failed to improve Soviet industry group in the period 1918-1938? (Hodder, p.49) To what extent were there changes in the Soviet government in the years 1928-1964 (Hodder, p.49) Was economic decline the main consequence of Brezhnev's economic policy in the years 1964-1985? (Hodder p.81) How far, in the years 1953–85, did the priorities for Soviet industry and agriculture change? (2016 AS Exam, Q3) Was the failure of Khrushchev's industrial reforms the main reason for economic problems in the USSR in the years 1964–82? Explain your answer. (Edexcel SAMS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How successful were economic policies in promoting economic development in the USSR in the years 1917-41? (Pearson, p.53) How far was Soviet economic decline in the period 1964-1985 a result of failure of leadership? (Pearson, p.60) How far did the Russian economy improve in the years 1921-1964? (Hodder, p.39) How far do you agree that the Communist Government faced severe economic and political challenges in the years 1917-1928? (Hodder, p.49) How significant was the creation of a one-party state in the establishment of communist power in the years 1921-1953? (Hodder, p.49) How far do you agree that the Soviet economy was transformed in the years 1928-1953? (Hodder, p.59) How far did the economic priorities of the Russian Government change in the period 1928-1964? (Hodder, p.68). How successfully did Soviet economic policy meet its aims in the years 1928-1985? (Hodder, p.69) How far was Brezhnev responsible for the economic decline of the USSR in the years 1964–85? (Edexcel SAMS) How successful were government policies in promoting industrial development in the USSR in the years 1928–64? (Edexcel SAMS) How accurate is it to say that industry in the USSR was transformed by the Five-Year Plans of 1928–50? (Edexcel SAMS 2017) To what extent did the economic reforms of Khrushchev and Brezhnev address the fundamental weaknesses of the Soviet economy between 1955 and 1982? (Pearson, p.158) |

**Theme Three:
Control of the
People,
1917-1985**

- How far was Beria responsible for enlarging the role of the secret police in the years 1938-1953? (Pearson, p.79)
- How far would you agree that the Soviet government's use of the arts and culture was successful in the period 1917-1985? (Pearson, p.87)
- How significant was control of the media in the achievement of Communist political dominance in the years 1917-1941? (Hodder, p.81)
- How far did government policy towards art and culture change in the years 1928-1985? (Hodder, p.119)
- How accurate is it to say that the Soviet Government relied wholly on the secret police to retain its power in the years 1928-1985? (Hodder, p.142)
- Was state propaganda the main reason for the Soviet regime's control over its people in the years 1917-53? (2016 AS Exam, Q1)
- To what extent did government policy towards arts and culture change in the years 1917-64? (Edexcel SAMS)
- How far did the role of the secret police change in the Soviet Union through the period 1953-1985? (Pearson, p.79)
- How far was government control over the Soviet people in the years 1917-1985 the result of the use of terror? (Pearson, p. 87)
- How accurate is it to say that Soviet Governments were consistently hostile to religious groups in the period 1921-1964? (Hodder, p.81)
- How far did the Communist Government control art and culture in the Soviet Union in the years 1921-1964? (Hodder, p.107)
- To what extent were art and propaganda the main way in which the Communist Government consolidated its power in the years 1918-1938? (Hodder, p.107)
- How accurate is it to say that the majority of Soviet citizens accepted limited political freedom in order to benefit from economic security in the years 1964-1982? (Hodder, p.131)
- How far was government control over the lives of the people maintained in the years 1953-85? (Edexcel SAMS)
- How far did Soviet culture limit personal artistic expression in the years 1917-85? (Edexcel SAMS 2017)
- How far did the Soviet regime succeed in ensuring that culture and the arts served the interests of the Communist Party between 1917 and 1953? (Pearson, p. 154)

**Theme Four:
Social
Developments,
1917-1985**

- To what extent did the lives of women in the USSR improve between 1917 and 1985? (Pearson, p.101)
- How accurate is it to say that government education policy succeeded in improving the lives of people in the USSR in the years 1917-1985? (Pearson, p.112)
- Was ideology the main reason for improvements in social security in the period 1953-1985? Explain your answer. (Hodder, p.119)
- How far do you agree that the most significant Soviet social development in the years 1917–85 was the improved status of women? (2016 AS Exam, Q4)
- How accurate is it to say that government social policy succeeded in improving the lives of people in the USSR in the years 1953–85? (Edexcel SAMS)
- How far did the status of women in Soviet society change between 1917 and the death of Stalin in 1953? (Pearson, p.144)
- Was the provision of full employment the main reason for social stability in the USSR during the years 1953-1985? (Pearson, p.96)
- To what extent was social policy successful at providing social stability in the Soviet Union between 1953 and 1985? (Pearson, p.112)
- How accurate is it to say that the Soviet government successfully promoted social stability in the years 1953-1985? (Hodder, p.119)
- How accurate is it to say that Communism failed to create sexual equality in the years 1918-1953? (Hodder, p.130)
- How far did the Soviet Government achieve its educational aims in the years 1917-1985? (Hodder, p.140)
- How far do you agree that the most significant social development in the years 1924–64 was the expansion of educational opportunities? (Edexcel SAMS 2017)

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