Below is an exemplar set of answers to the question you have just completed. It has been annotated to stress the necessary structure required to successful in each question type (you may have chosen different examples in your answers).

**Exemplar Student Response – A \* answer**

**a)**

1. The assassination of Alexander II

2. The Battle of Tsushima

3. The formation of the Octobrists

4. Stolypin appointed Prime Minister

5. The Second Duma

**b)**

The appointment of Stolypin as Prime Minister of Russia in 1906 affected Russian society greatly, particularly in respect of peasants living in the countryside. Stolypin decided to try and increase support for Nicholas by introducing reforms that would help hard working peasants to get wealthier. He abolished the redemption payments (which peasants had been forced to pay since the emancipation in Alexander II’s reign) and set up a Peasant’s Land Bank which would lend money to the peasants so that they could buy their own land. He also abolished the mir entirely, increasing their individual freedom to move and marry. Many peasants therefore became better off as a result of Stolypin’s reforms, but the process was very slow and had not affected the majority by the time he was assassinated.

**c)**

One reason for the increase in opposition to Nicholas II’s rule between 1894 and 1905 was the Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese War that made the Tsar’s government look weak and incompetent. The Tsar had expected a quick, easy war against an Asian country that most Russians believed was inferior. However, the army proved to be very disorganised on land and suffered an embarrassing defeat by losing Port Arthur. Furthermore, the Russian navy was heavily beaten by the Japanese at the Battle of Tsushima in 1904, further highlighting the incompetent leadership of the Tsar who had not modernised the fleet properly. As the Tsar tried to win the war, he diverted resources and trains to support the army, leading to shortages in the cities.

As a result of these shortages, a second reason for people to oppose Nicholas II occurred in St Petersburg in 1905. A large group of workers, led by Father Gapon, decided to march to the Winter Palace to hand a petition to the Tsar asking for better working conditions and an end to the war. Police and soldiers attempted to stop the protesters and matters quickly got out of hand. Several hundred of the workers were shot, many being killed. This event became known as ‘Bloody Sunday’ and led to huge outrage and opposition to the Tsar who had been made to look cruel and uncaring. Protests and mutinies followed throughout the rest of the year on a massive scale.

Therefore, it was the shortages and humiliation caused by defeat in the Russo-Japanese War that directly led to Father Gapon’s protest march in 1905, which turned into the massacre that destroyed the reputation of the Tsar.

**d)**

Alexander III was a very repressive Tsar who based his policies around the motto ‘Autocracy, Orthodoxy and nationalism’. His overall aim was to remove the reforms of his father and create a highly repressive government.

As the source states, one way in which he did this was to follow a policy of ‘Russification’ that would attempt to get rid of the nationalities problem by forcing the ethnic minorities to be more Russian. He forced everyone to take a Russia surname in 1885 and attempted to ensure that Russian was the main language spoken (sending soldiers to areas like Poland to enforce his rules). He encouraged brutal pogroms against the Jews, especially in 1881, which he hoped would force them to either leave the country or convert to Christianity. Therefore, Alexander III’s main methods to enforce repression were the use of censorship and force.

He used similar methods to keep the middle class liberals in line. For example, in 1892 he also introduced censorship laws to university and introduced to Land Captains who he could control and who took much of the power away from the elected zemstvo in the countryside. Alexander III also used force against his Russian critics – as the source states, his main method was to ‘extend the power of the police’. Indeed, one of his first measures was to allow the Okhrana to lock people up without trial and made it easier to execute opposition groups by introducing the Statute of State Security in 1881.

Overall, there was a consistent pattern in the methods used to deal with opposition by Alexander III – in dealing with both the ethnic minorities of Russia and the liberal middle classes, he used censorship to keep them quiet and force to remove any who remained a problem.