

Russia 1881-1914: Exam Questions & Mark schemes



Section A topics are split into four questions. The wording and pattern of the questions will always be the same so remember the four types of questions you have to deal with: a) Chronology b) the effects of an event c) causation d) an essay where you need to write more on either causation, changes or effects. Possible topics include:

The Reign of Alexander III

Impact of Assassination II. Alexander III, Pobedonostev and reaction. Restoration of autocracy, censorship and the policy of Russification.

Problems facing Nicholas II 1894-1905

Weakness of Nicholas II as Tsar. Witte and industrial growth. Problems facing Nicholas II, including the discontent of the peasants, town workers and subject nationalities (ethnic minorities)

The 1905 Revolution

The Russo-Japanese War 1904-05 and Father Gapon and Bloody Sunday. Key events of the 1905 Revolution. The Potemkin Mutiny and setting up of the Soviets. The October Manifesto and the reasons why Nicholas II survived.

The Dumas and Stolypin

The attitude of Nicholas II to the first four dumas. Stolypin's policy of land reform and repression. The Lena Goldfield Strike.

The Growth of Opposition to Tsarist Rule

Emergence of opposition groups including Constitutional Democrats (Cadets), Octobrists, Social Democrats and Social Revolutionary Party. Split in Social Democrats - Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

You only have 45 minutes to answer all four sub-questions. The amount of marks for each questions should help you judge how much to write. For Question a) give 5 minutes, Question b) 8 minutes, Question c) 12 minutes and Question d) 20 minutes.

Question A (3 marks)

Question A requires you to place **five events** in their correct chronological order. It's only worth 3 marks so complete it as quick as you can! Obviously you need good chronological knowledge. Revision exercises using timelines to test yourself on dates is a good idea.

Study these events which occurred in Russia in the years 1881- 1914. Write these events in the correct chronological sequence:

1. The formation of the Social Democratic Party, The Resignation of Witte, Nicholas II becomes Tsar, The Outbreak of the Russ-Japanese War, The Assassination of Alexander II.
2. The Split in the Social Democrat Party, The Lena Goldfield Strike, The Assassination of Stolypin, The Setting up of the Octobrists, The First Duma.
3. The Lena Goldfield Strike, The Formation of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, The Second Duma, Alexander III becomes Tsar, The Assassination of Stolypin.
4. The Battle of Tsushima, Stolypin appointed Prime Minister, the Formation of the Octobrists, the Assassination of Alexander II, the Second Duma.
5. Bloody Sunday, the Potemkin Mutiny, The Fourth Duma, The Fundamental Laws.

Mark Scheme

2 in correct sequence	1 mark
3 in correct sequence	2 marks
4/5 in correct sequence	3 marks

Exam Questions - Question B (4 marks)

Question B will always pick two events from Question A. You will need to use your knowledge to **describe one effect of that event**. An effect means the **results or consequences** of an event - what did the event lead to?

- Choose one event and stick to that choice
- Signpost your answer and focus on the question. i.e. begin your answer with 'One effect was...'
- One paragraph is enough. Use link words like as a result, as a consequence, furthermore etc... Give the effect and then explain. Using the word because will help you give developed explanation.
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1. Choose **either** The Lena Goldfield Strike or Alexander III becomes Tsar.

Explain **one effect** on Russia of the event you have chosen.

2. Choose **either** The Lena Goldfield Strike or The First Duma.

Explain one effect on Russia of the event you have chosen.

3. Choose **either** The formation of the Social Democratic Party **or** The Assassination of Alexander II. Explain one effect on Russia of the event you have chosen.
4. Choose either Stolypin Appointed Prime Minister or The Second Duma. Explain **one effect on Russia of the event that you have chosen.**
5. Choose **either** The Split in the Social Democrats **or** The Role of Pobedonostev. **Explain one effect on Russia of the event you have chosen.**
6. Choose **either** The Battle of Tsushima or The Formation of the Soviets. Explain **one effect on Russia of the event you have chosen.**
7. Choose either the Building of the Trans-Siberian Railway or Stolypin's Necktie. Explain one effect of the event you have chosen on Russia.
8. Choose either the Setting up of the Octobrists or the Russification policies of Alexander. Explain one effect on Russia of the event you have chosen.

Mark Scheme

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	Simple or generalised statements of consequence - The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations. <i>e.g. This made the people very angry. There were many protests in Russia as a result.</i>	1-2
Level 2	Developed statements of consequence - The candidate supports their statements with relevant contextual knowledge. <i>e.g. This challenged the image of the Tsar as the Little Father forever. For the first time, mass support developed for the opposition groups such as the Socialist Revolutionary Party, For example and the Social Democrats. For example, in St Petersburg...</i>	3-4

Exam Questions - Question C (8 marks)

Question C will always test your knowledge of Causation - *why did something happen?* You will need to explain the reasons why an event happened in detail. You will have to **explain at least two reasons and link them** for full marks. Spend about 10 minutes on this question.

- Focus! It's about causation so only write about the reasons why something happened!
- Write a separate paragraph for each reason. First give the reason then explain/develop it.
- Linking your reasons means explaining how one reason led to the next. Use words such as: *this led to, as a result, moreover, furthermore. As a consequence, in addition.*
 - Confirm the link between the reasons in your conclusion.

1. Why did Alexander III carry out a policy of Repression in the years 1881-94? Explain your answer.
2. Why did opposition to Nicholas grow in the years 1906-14? Explain your answer.

3. Why did opposition to Nicholas grow between 1894 and 1905? Explain your answer.
4. Why did Alexander III introduce his policy of Orthodoxy, Nationality and Autocracy? Explain your answer.
5. Why did Stolypin's reforms and repression fail to end opposition to the Tsars? Explain your answer.
6. Why did Russia lose the Russo-Japanese war? Explain your answer.
7. Why did the 1905 Revolution start? Explain your answer.
8. Why did the Social Democrat Party split in 1903? Explain your answer.
9. Why had the Tsar lost his reputation as 'Little Father' by 1914? Explain your answer.

Mark Scheme

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	Simple or generalised statements of causation - The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations. <i>eg Because of the Russian defeat against Japan.</i>	1-2 1 mark for one simple statement 2 marks for two or more
Level 2	Developed statements of causation - The candidate supports their statement with relevant contextual knowledge. <i>eg One reason was the defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War which showed the weakness of the tsar's government</i>	3-5 3 marks for one developed statement 4/5 marks for two or more
Level 3	Developed explanation of causation - An explanation of more than one factor supported by selected knowledge. One explained factor should be marked at the top of Level 2. <i>e.g. As Level 2. Shows how defeat in war against Japan led to Bloody Sunday. Explains why events of Bloody Sunday increased discontent in Russia...</i>	6-8 6/7 marks for two or more explained factors 8 marks for answers which show links between factors

Exam Questions - Question D (10 marks)

Question D will ask you to write an extended response. You must use the source AND your own knowledge to describe or explain the causes, effects or a period of change. If the question is about change then obviously try to write about change by comparing the situation before and after the period. Allow 12 minutes at least.

- Ensure you use the source! Directly refer to the source i.e. 'as suggested in Source A'
- Underline and explain key events, names and dates in the source. If you then explain these in more detail, you are using your own knowledge.
- Two paragraphs based on two factors linked together and explained well is enough to get full marks.
- Don't forget a conclusion! Re-affirm the link between the facts or make a judgement on the extent of change.

1. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain the effects of the 1905 Revolution

"The 1905 Revolution was followed by a mixture of reform and repression. After the election of the first duma, Stolypin carried out land reform to win over the peasants. At the same time, Stolypin introduced strict repressive measures including the execution of 4,000 people" Source: From a modern text book

2. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why Nicholas II was able to survive the revolution of 1905.

"The army remained loyal to the Tsar throughout the events of 1905. Also, Nicholas II accepted advice and introduced the October Manifesto which offered the people a duma. The middle-class liberals were delighted" Source: From a modern text book

3. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why there was discontent in Russia at the beginning of the twentieth century

"Around 80 per cent of Russia's population were peasants, most of whom lived in very poor conditions. Some peasants left the land to work in cities such as St Petersburg, where conditions hardly improved. The Tsar's empire included many different nationalities who resented attempts at Russification" Source: From a modern text book

4. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain how Alexander III carried out a policy of repression between 1881 and 1894:

"Alexander III was greatly influenced by extreme conservatives such as Pobedonostsev. Alexander III extended the powers of the police and strengthened the censorship laws. He carried out a policy of Russification on the 40 million non-Russian members of the empire."

Source: From a modern text book

5. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why the October Manifesto had failed to generate widespread support for the Tsar by 1914

"The October Manifesto had saved the Tsar in 1905 as it satisfied the demands of the Liberal middle classes for more influence and freedom. However, as early as 1906 the Tsar had effectively destroyed the manifesto, as can be seen by the fortunes of the four dumas. Failure to address the needs of the workers in the cities and the slow impact of Stolypin's reforms in rural areas, meant that support for the Tsar did not increase after 1905." modern text book

6. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why Russia failed to win the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-5.

"The failure to defeat Japan in 1904-5 was a terrible disaster and disappointment for Nicholas II. His arrogance and incompetence was a major contributing factor, as was the misplaced reliance on new communication routes and (what they believed to be) superior naval power."

Source: From a modern text book

7. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why Witte's industrial reforms improved Russia economically, but caused more problems socially

Witte was tasked by the Tsar's with creating an economically industrialised Russia. He went about this task with enthusiasm and competence. However, while he achieved his target to a large extent, to do so he also created an angry and desperate working class, which became the major social challenge for the autocracy in the 1900s Source: From a modern text book

8. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why the opposition groups in Russia had failed to unite by 1914

"While the policies of Nicholas II created plenty of reason for opposition groups to form, it did not mean that they united against him. The liberal middle classes remained divided between the Octobrists and the Cadets, while the revolutionary Social Democrats split into the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks. The Social Revolutionaries also split in 1905." Source: From a modern text book

9. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why the liberal middle classes began to demand more power after the death of Alexander III

"While the repression of Alexander III's reign made it appear as if he had strengthened the autocracy, his policies actually increased the demands for more say in government among the middle class liberals. This stemmed from their experience in running local government in the zemstva, especially during the famine of 1891... and their dislike of his Russification and censorship policies, among others." Source: From a modern text book

10. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain how the personal poor judgment of Nicholas II and his family led to increased opposition to them

"Nicholas II and Alexandra had many personal flaws that became increasingly apparent to the people of Russia. Nicholas II's failure to keep competent ministers damaged the effectiveness of the regime, while Alexandra's susceptibility to superstition harmed their reputation as religious figures. Nicholas' arrogance, shown in his dealings with Japan and the dumas, undermined the efforts of his government to reform and bring the people on side"

11. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain how the economy of Russia changed between 1881 and 1914

"The big changes in the Russia economy started with the huge industrialisation programme of Witte, which created large scale industry and a new working class. Stolypin provided an equivalent revolution in the Russian countryside through his reforms after 1906." Source: From a modern text book

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	<p>Simple or generalised statements using the source supported by some own knowledge - The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations.</p> <p><i>e.g. because of the break-in by members of CREEP</i></p>	<p>1-3</p> <p>1 marks for one simple statement</p> <p>2/3 marks for two or more</p>
Level 2	<p>Developed Statements using the source and relevant own knowledge - The candidate supports their statement with relevant contextual knowledge.</p> <p><i>e.g. Work of two reporters who exposed link between CREEP, President and break-in. Impact of tapes.</i></p>	<p>Max 3 marks for only using the source</p> <p>4-7</p> <p>4/5 marks for one developed statement</p> <p>6/7 marks for two or more</p> <p>8-10</p>
Level 3	<p>Developed explanation using the source and precise own knowledge - An explanation of more than one factor supported by selected knowledge.</p> <p>One explained factor should be marked at the top of Level 2.</p> <p><i>e.g. As Level 2 - link work of reporters to the battle for the tapes...</i></p>	<p>8-9 marks for two or more explained factors</p> <p>10 marks for answers which show links between factors and comes to a judgment about which is most important</p>
