

History Transition Information

The course you will study is outlined below – from this you can see the different aspects of both the Paper 1 and Paper 2 units. I have only included the information for the first year of study.

Paper 1:

This deals with the move from Tsarist Russia to Communist Russia and then into the era of the Soviet Union.

To help you prepare for studying this unit there are some activities you could do to give you a great head start.

- Read through overviews of the period prior to 1855 to give you an understanding of the time period as a whole and in particular the political and social context.
- Watch some documentaries on the rulers of Russia before 1855.
- Choose some of the topics below and do some reading about them.

I have included some suggested texts and websites that may be useful. I do not suggest you buy these books - but the writers would be the ones to look for in your research and reading.

Useful books for students

- J Bromley, *Russia 1848–1917*, Heinemann, 2002
- G Darby, *The Russian Revolution*, Longman, 1998
- D Evans and J Jenkins, *Years of Russia, the USSR and the Collapse of Soviet Communism*, Hodder Arnold (2nd edn), 2001
- J Hite, *Tsarist Russia 1801–1917*, Causeway Press, 2004
- J Laver, *The Modernisation of Russia 1856–1985*, Heinemann, 2002
- S J Lee, *Russia and the USSR*, Routledge, 2005
- M Lynch, *Reaction and Revolutions: Russia 1881–1924*, Hodder Murray (2nd new edn), 2005
- D Murphy and T Morris, *Russia 1855–1964*, Collins, 2008
- A Wood, *The Russian Revolution*, Longman (2nd edn), 1986

Biographies and first-hand accounts

- D Lieven, *Nicholas II Emperor of all the Russias*, Pimlico, 1994
- R Service, *Lenin: A Biography*, Pan Books, 2002
- B Williams, *Lenin (profiles in power)*, Longman, 2nd edn, 2000

Visual sources and websites

- B Moynahan, *Russian Century: A Photographic History*, Weidenfeld, 2000

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/>

<http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au>

<http://www.choices.edu/resources/detail.php?id=46>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/display/russian-revolutionary-posters>

1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894

- Political authority and the state of Russia: autocracy; the political, social and economic condition of Russia in 1855 and the impact of the Crimean War
- Political authority and attempts at reform: Alexander II; emancipation of the serfs and attempts at domestic and military reform
- Government and Tsars: Alexander II and Alexander III as rulers; attitudes to and imposition of autocracy; key developments
- Political authority in action: Russification; treatment of ethnic minorities and Jews
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies; individuals; liberals and radical groups and the Tsarist reaction
- Economic and social developments: industrial developments and the land issue; social divisions; nobles, landowners and position of the peasantry; the cultural influence of the Church

The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917

- Political authority, government and Tsar; Nicholas II as ruler: political developments to 1914; 1905 Revolution; Duma government
- Economic developments to 1914: industrial and agricultural growth and change
- Social developments to 1914: change and conditions of working and living in towns and countryside; social divisions; cultural changes
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies, liberalism, socialism; Marxism; individuals and radical groups
- Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social problems of wartime; opposition and the collapse of autocracy; the political developments of 1917
- Political authority, opposition and government: The Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of Bolshevik government by December 1917; opposition

Paper 2:

This deals with the period just after the turn of the century. It covers both World Wars and the impact these had on British politics and society. It also looks at the changing political landscape of Britain at home and the relationships Britain had with other countries.

To help you prepare for studying this unit there are some activities you could do to give you a great head start.

- Read through overviews of the period prior to 1906 to give you an understanding of the time period as a whole and in particular the political and social context.
- Watch some documentaries on life in Britain during the Victorian period (1837-1901) and the changes to society during this period.
- Choose some of the topics below and do some reading about them.

I have included some suggested texts and websites that may be useful. I do not suggest you buy these books - but the writers would be the ones to look for in your research and reading.

Useful books for students

- I Gazeley, Poverty in Britain, 1900-1965, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003
- A Marr, The Making of Modern Britain, Pan, 2010
- M Pugh, Speak for Britain: A New History of the Labour Party, Vintage, 2012

Visual sources and websites

- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.historytoday.com/>
- <http://www.history-ontheweb.co.uk/>
- <http://www.thehistoryfaculty.org/>
- <http://www.britishpathe.com/>
- <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/>

2M Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957

Part one: Society in Crisis, 1906–1929

The Liberal crisis, 1906–1914

- The Liberal governments: the 1906 election; New Liberalism; the influence of Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith, Lloyd George and Churchill; the position of Labour and the Conservatives
- The state of the economy: staples; 'new' industries; agriculture; trade and invisible earnings; economic concerns and external competition
- Social issues: class division; poverty; changes in taxation; the 'People's Budget'; Liberal social and welfare reforms; reasons for legislation and its effect
- Challenges and crises: the constitutional crisis; the issue of female emancipation; Irish Home Rule; industrial unrest

The impact of war, 1914–1922

- Politics in wartime: the 1915 coalition; Lloyd George and Bonar Law; Liberal division; the influence of the Labour Party and the 1918 constitution; the 1918 election and the Lloyd George coalition; policies, problems and Lloyd George's fall
- Economic issues: Britain's wartime economy; housing and austerity; trade unions; post-war industrial problems; the position of the staple industries and trade
- Social and cultural impact of war: role of women; reform of the franchise; unions and Labour; cultural change; issues of patriotism; conscientious objection; effect of trenches on soldiers; the war poets
- Ireland: the Easter Rising; the war of independence and the Anglo-Irish Treaty

The search for stability, 1922–1929

- Political developments: the decline of the Liberals; the 1923 election; the first Labour government: aims, reforms, international relations and collapse; the Conservative resurgence and government; the roles of Baldwin, Churchill and Chamberlain
- Economic issues: post-war re-adjustment and return to Gold Standard; the problems of the coal mines; industrial disputes and the General Strike
- Social and cultural change: unemployment and regional division; the post-war role of women; the growth of the media including newspapers and cinema; the cultural reaction to war
- The 1929 election: the franchise extension and 'flapper vote'; the new Labour government; MacDonald and Snowden and their aims; the state of Britain by 1929

