

### 1. What was the condition of Russia before 1905?

1	What problems did the Tsar face in Ruling Russia?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size: Russian Empire 1/6 of world's land surface</li> <li>Communication: Poor roads, same amount of rail track as Britain but 100 times its size.</li> <li>Diversity: More than 19 different languages were spoken among the many nationalities. Large numbers of Jews, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants.</li> <li>Authority: Russia only had 1,852 police sergeants and 6,874 police constables to police a rural population of 100 million.</li> </ol>
2	What was Russian society like?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 80 per cent peasants by 1900.</li> <li>Nobility 1% of population but owned 25% of land</li> <li>Tiny but expanding middle class</li> <li>Working class made up 10% of population and had much higher literacy rates than peasants</li> </ol>
3	How was Russia ruled?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autocracy. Tsar ruled alone and used Okhrana (secret police), Cossacks and army to keep order</li> </ol>
4	Which groups opposed the Tsar?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liberals: Favoured reform and a constitutional monarchy. Included the Kadets, the Octoberists and the Progressives.</li> <li>SRs: Represented peasant interests. Suffered from internal divisions with the left advocating political assassination</li> <li>SDs: Represented the proletariat. Split into the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks in 1903</li> </ol>

### Key dates

1	1905	Bloody Sunday sparks 1905 revolution
2	1914	First World War begins, increasing popularity of the Tsar and leading to national unity.
3	1915	Progressive Bloc is formed in August. Tsar goes to the front to command the army in September following a string of embarrassing defeats.
4	1916	Rasputin is murdered by nobles. 1.5 million Russian soldiers desert by December.

### 2. How did the 1905 revolution change Russia?

1	Why was the Duma doomed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tsar still made all decisions</li> <li>First and second Duma were quickly dissolved for being too radical</li> <li>Voting was massively skewed towards elite in third and fourth Dumas which were far more passive</li> </ol>
2	Why did tension increase in Russia?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrialisation boomed before WWI, but this meant poor working conditions</li> <li>3 million Russians took part in strikes between 1912 and 1914.</li> <li>Stolypin's land reforms increased tension in the countryside.</li> </ol>

### 3. Why did the First World War spark a revolution?

1	How did the coming of war impact Russia?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War increased support for the Tsar and an increased sense of national pride.</li> <li>The Duma was dissolved to focus on the war effort.</li> <li>The Bolsheviks became very unpopular and were exiled due to their opposition to the war.</li> </ol>
2	How did Russia's war effort lead to greater discontent?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battle of Tannenberg in August 1914 saw 300,000 Russians dead or wounded.</li> <li>A lack of weapons, ammunitions, equipment and clothing contributed to poor morale and further defeats</li> <li>Nicholas refused help from Liberal Zemgor and Progressive Bloc.</li> <li>Tsar placed himself at the front in September 1915, leaving unpopular Alexandra and Rasputin in charge.</li> <li>1.5 million desertions by December 1916</li> </ol>
3	What was life like in Russia during WW1?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Millions conscripted left labour shortages</li> <li>Food supplies were prioritized for the army, leading to peasants hoarding grain</li> <li>The government raised taxes</li> <li>Shortages of food and manufactured products led to inflation</li> <li>Unemployment increased as non-military factories were forced to close</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>Autocracy</b>	Rule by one person who has no limits on their power
<b>Bourgeoisie</b>	The capitalist class who own most of society's wealth and means of production.
<b>Constitutional monarchy</b>	A form of democratic government in which the monarch acts as the head of state
<b>Duma</b>	A duma was a Russian assembly with advisory or law making functions
<b>Divine Right</b>	A ruling monarch was appointed by God and was only answerable to God
<b>Marxism</b>	The economic, social and political philosophies of Karl Marx
<b>Okhrana</b>	The Russian Empire's secret police force
<b>Octobrists</b>	A political sub-group that supported the October Manifesto
<b>Proletariat</b>	The working class who were exploited by the bourgeoisie
<b>Russification</b>	A cultural assimilation process where non Russian minorities' cultures were repressed
<b>Tsar</b>	The leader of the Russian Empire
<b>Zemstva</b>	Elected councils responsible for the local administration of provincial districts

### Key People

1	Nicholas II	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tsar of Russia from 1894 to 1917</li> </ol>
2	Grigori Rasputin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peasant holy man and mystic.</li> <li>Gained power at court for his ability to heal the Tsarevich Alexei.</li> <li>Murdered by nobility in 1916.</li> </ol>
3	Tsarina Alexandra	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wife of the Tsar</li> <li>Ruled with Rasputin in Tsar's absence during WWI</li> </ol>

### 1. The February Revolution

1	What caused the February Revolution?	1. The February Revolution was rooted in years of suffering and frustration under an autocracy that was unable to adapt to change
2	What sparked the February Revolution?	1. The shortages and inflation caused by WWI could be seen as a short term cause 2. It was triggered by bread shortages

### 2. Timeline of the Revolution

1	14 <sup>th</sup> February	1. There were strikes in Petrograd. 2. News that bread would be rationed bought long queues and riots
2	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	1. 20,000 workers were locked out of their Steel factory after pay talks collapsed 2. Other workers joined in solidarity
3	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	1. Striking workers joined the International Women's Day march. 2. Students and bread queue participants also joined
4	24 <sup>th</sup> February	1. 200,000 workers were on strike. The protests were disordered and leaderless
5	25 <sup>th</sup> February	1. 25 <sup>th</sup> February – 250,000 people were on strike in Petrograd. 2. There were shots fired between the public and the police
6	26 <sup>th</sup> February	1. 26 <sup>th</sup> February – Rodzianko telegraphed the Tsar warning him of the situation. 2. Nicholas ignored this and dissolved the Duma
7	27 <sup>th</sup> February	1. 27 <sup>th</sup> February – the Tsar ordered the use of force against protesters. This led to mutinies in the Volynskii regiment. 2. The Duma held an emergency meeting without the Tsar's authority & set up the Provisional Government 3. At the same time revolutionaries were preparing a take over

### 3. Abdication of the Tsar

1	What did the Tsar try to keep power?	1. 28 <sup>th</sup> February- Tsar began his journey back to Petrograd and offered to share power with the Duma
2	How did the Tsar lose power?	1. On 1 <sup>st</sup> March, Nicholas' chief of staff tried to convince him to abdicate 2. Nicholas agreed on 2 <sup>nd</sup> March. He and his family were placed under house arrest

Key word	Definition
Abdication	An act of renouncing the throne
Constituent Assembly	A proposed council that would be elected to run Russia
Dual Authority	The shared leadership between the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet
Provisional Government	The temporary government that was in place until elections for the Constituent Assembly were held
Soviets	An elected council for an area or group

### 4. Consequences of the February Revolution

1	What happened when the Tsar abdicated?	1. Nicholas named his brother Mikhail as the new Tsar but he renounced the position and gave power to the Dual Authority 2. The Dual Authority were made up of the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet
2	Who were the Provisional Government?	1. Headed by Prince Lvov - aristocrat and previous politician 2. Made up of former supporters of a constitutional monarchy 3. Supposed to be temporary until a Constituent Assembly could be elected 4. Supported by the old Tsarist Civil Service, army officers and police
3	Who were the Petrograd Soviet?	1. Made up of socialist intellectuals – mainly Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries 2. Members were elected 3. Considered by workers, soldiers and peasants to be more democratic and less elitist
4	What were the weaknesses of the Dual Authority?	1. Soviet Order No 1 said that soldiers and workers should only obey the Provisional government when the Petrograd Soviet agreed. 2. But there were lots of areas of conflict between the two parts of the Dual Authority

Views	The Provisional Government:	The Petrograd Soviet:
Control	Wanted to improve discipline in the army and restore order in the countryside	Encouraged soldiers, workers and peasants to defy authority and assert their rights
War	Wanted an all out effort to win WW1	Wanted to end Russia's involvement in WW1 as quickly as possible as long as it didn't mean giving up territory to the Germans
Leadership	Were committed to holding elections for the Constituent Assembly but was afraid that the SRs would win out over the Liberals	Were reactive and saw their role as being to protect the rights of workers but didn't offer alternative leadership of its own

Key people	
Nicholas II	Tsar of Russia before 1917
Rodzianko	The Duma president before 1917
Kerensky	The only person to be a member of both parts of the Dual Authority

### 1. The Bolshevik Party

1	How popular were the Bolsheviks?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Feb 1917, the Bolshevik party was still small with only 23,000 members</li> <li>The Bolsheviks largely agreed with whatever the Petrograd Soviet said.</li> </ol>
2	Why weren't the Bolsheviks involved in Feb Rev?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bolsheviks didn't expect the February revolution:</li> <li>Lenin had said in January that he didn't expect a revolution in his lifetime</li> </ol>
3	What did they do following Feb Rev?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kamenev and Stalin returned from exile in Siberia</li> <li>Lenin returned to Russia from Switzerland on a sealed train, with the help of the German government –he arrived with Zinoviev</li> <li>Bukharin arrived in May</li> </ol>

### 2. Lenin's Ideology

1	How did Lenin's ideology differ from Marxism?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Russian middle classes were too weak, the workers and peasants needed to do it</li> <li>The Soviets were a good model for new government and Russia was primed for revolution</li> <li>The rest of Europe seemed poised to join the revolution –Russia would be supported</li> </ol>
2	What was Lenin's April Thesis?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lenin published his April Thesis on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1917.</li> <li>His two main demands were: "Peace, Bread, Land" and "All Power to the Soviets"</li> <li>These slogans were catchy and appealed to the majority of Russians</li> </ol>
3	What impact did Lenin have?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially, little impact with the party –some believed he was out of touch with the Russian situation.</li> <li>He made little impact with the workers within the first month –his calls for strikes being ignored.</li> <li>His policies did attract some revolutionaries like Trotsky who had previously opposed him</li> <li>His policies started to gain more traction when the Provisional Government began making mistakes</li> </ol>

### 3. Mistakes of the Provisional Government

1	Economic issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The price of goods continued to increase</li> <li>Food was in short supply</li> <li>Fuel shortages made living conditions unbearable, especially during the harsh Russian winter</li> <li>The government could not guarantee enough grain, ammunition or weapons for troops fighting</li> <li>The government did not to solve the land issue in the countryside - Seizures of land from landowners became widespread.</li> </ol>
2	The June Offensive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Provisional Government persisted with military campaigns.</li> <li>Kerensky, Minister of War, ordered the June Offensive of 1917, an attempt to push the Austrians back.</li> <li>The morale of the army declined further and there were huge increases in desertions.</li> <li>The soldiers became more receptive to Bolshevik propaganda and the loyalty of a number of units to the Provisional Government was now uncertain.</li> </ol>
3	The July Days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In July 1917, sailors from the Kronstadt naval base organized an armed demonstration that spread to Petrograd.</li> <li>Workers and soldiers joined them driven by rising prices and unemployment</li> <li>The Bolsheviks encouraged the workers to protest, which led to them being blamed for the violence.</li> <li>The Provisional Government used the army to crush the demonstrators with the support of the Petrograd Soviet.</li> <li>Bolshevik newspapers were shut down, Lenin &amp; Stalin fled, Trotsky was arrested</li> <li>Prince Lvov resigned –leaving Kerensky in charge</li> </ol>
4	The Kornilov Coup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By August 1917, Kerensky's new government wanted to restore order</li> <li>They put General Kornilov in charge of the Russian army, but they soon begin to criticize his methods and right-wing views –even though he had support from landowners and businessmen</li> <li>Kornilov ordered troops to march on Petrograd in an attempted military coup.</li> <li>Kerensky panicked, was forced to ask the Petrograd Soviet to defend the capital and agreed the newly freed Bolsheviks to arm workers to fight Kornilov.</li> </ol>

### 4. Final Preparations for Revolution

1	How had Bolshevik membership changed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the beginning of September, the Bolsheviks had majorities in both the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets</li> <li>Membership of the Bolshevik party had risen to 200,000 by the beginning of October.</li> </ol>
2	What was the role of Trotsky?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In September, Trotsky became Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet and was head of the MRC</li> <li>Trotsky had superb organisational and improvisational skills.</li> <li>His position in the Soviet allowed him to create the Red Guard.</li> <li>Trotsky took charge of planning the Bolshevik coup that was intended for the end of October.</li> </ol>
3	What was the role of Lenin?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From mid September onwards, Lenin pushed for the Bolsheviks to seize power –Kamenev and Zinoviev disagreed.</li> <li>Lenin returned to Petrograd in early October, determined to seize power quickly. The Provisional Government had announced that elections would take place in November and he was certain that the Bolsheviks would perform poorly.</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
MRC	The Military Revolutionary Committee - established to protect Petrograd and allowed socialists to infiltrate the army
Red Guard	A Bolshevik militia formed from armed factory workers, soldiers and sailors
Soviet	an elected local, district, or national council

**1. Causes of the October Revolution**

1	When were the MRC formed?	1. 16 <sup>th</sup> October
2	How were the MRC a threat?	1. 15/18 of the Petrograd garrisons declared allegiance to the MRC, not the Provisional Government 2. By 23 <sup>rd</sup> October Kerensky was worried about the growing power of the MRC and tried to limit their power
3	How did Kerensky try to limit the MRC?	1. He send troops to cut of a Bolshevik area and ordered 2 of their newspapers to be shut down. 2. The Bolsheviks saw this as a direct attack

**2. Timeline of the Revolution**

1	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1. The Red Guards capture key positions in Petrograd 2. They were supported by soldiers and sailors from Kronstadt
2	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1. The Red Guards enter the Winter Palace 2. The Second Congress of Soviets meets 3. Some Mensheviks and right-wing SRs protest against the Bolshevik seizure of power
3	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1. All remaining members of the Provisional Government are arrested 2. The Congress votes to take power into its own hands 3. The Congress agrees unanimously to Lenin's Decree on Peace
4	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1. The Congress agrees to Lenin's Decree on Land 2. A Central Executive Committee is set up, with the majority of members being Bolsheviks or Left Wing SRs 3. Sovnarkom is set up

**3. Extent of the October Revolution - debate**

1	How many people were involved?	1. The revolution involved 25,000-35,000 people at the most 2. 5% of the workers and soldiers in Petrograd
2	What do historians say?	1. Soviet historians idealized Lenin's role and after Lenin's death they downplayed the importance of Trotsky 2. Critics of Lenin prioritise the failings of the Provisional Government over Lenin's leadership 3. During the Cold War, Western historians claimed that the revolution was a coup d'état not a popular revolution 4. Recent historians have identified that there was some radicalism and spontaneous rebellion that the Bolsheviks exploited

**4. Early actions of the Bolsheviks**

1	Who had power after the revolution?	1. The October Revolution transferred power to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets 2. When the Bolsheviks won a majority of seats on the Congress' executive committee, the Mensheviks and Right SRs walked out
2	What was the Sovnarkom?	1. The Sovnarkom was set up to take charge of running the government with Lenin as its chairman 2. The Sovnarkom was reluctant to share power and sidelined the Petrograd Soviet
3	How did the Bolsheviks deal with early opposition?	1. At first, civil servants refused to work for the Bolshevik government – e.g. bankers refused the Bolsheviks access to state funds 2. 10 days later with the threat of armed intervention, they submitted 3. The Cheka was established and could arrest any counter-revolutionaries 4. Members of opposition parties were arrested and imprisoned 5. The Bolshevik shut down opposition newspapers with the Press Decree

Key word	Definition
<b>Cheka</b>	The secret police force of the Bolsheviks
<b>Decree</b>	an official statement that something must happen
<b>Sovnarkom</b>	The government of the new revolutionary regime

**5. 4 main Decrees – October -December**

1	What was the Decree on Peace?	1. Declared in October 2. Promised an end to war 3. An armistice followed in November
2	What decrees dealt with opposition?	1. Oct - Press Decree banned opposition press 2. Dec – the Cheka established to root out opposition
3	What decrees helped workers rights?	1. Oct– Workers' Decree: limited the working day to 8 hours 2. Oct- Social insurance decree: gave old-age health and unemployment benefits 3. Nov - Decree on Workers' Control of Factories: allowed workers to 'supervise' managers
4	What decrees dealt with social issues	1. Nov - Judicial decree: established people's courts 2. Nov - Decree to outlaw sex discrimination: gave equal rights for women 3. Dec - Decrees on the Church: removed marriage and divorce from Church Control