

## 1. Formation of the police state

1	How had Lenin created a police state?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purges of the party had already taken place under Lenin</li> <li>2. These often led to people losing their Party membership</li> <li>3. The Cheka became the OGPU from 1922 onwards</li> </ol>
2	How did the police state develop in the beginning of Stalin's rule?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the early 30s, the population was repressed through arrests and show trials.</li> <li>2. Enforced famine was also as much an aspect of the Terror as the political arrests. It was 'economic terror'</li> </ol>

## 2. Early purges and trials

1	The Shakhty Trial 1928	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Managers and technicians of the Shakhty coal mine questioned the rapid pace of industrialization</li> <li>2. Five were imprisoned and others targeted</li> <li>3. This was a message to warn others not to criticize the 5 year plans</li> </ol>
2	Trotsky's expulsion 1929	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trotsky never admitted to mistakes, like others on the Left in the power struggle</li> <li>2. He was expelled from the party and the USSR</li> <li>3. This removed the leader of the Left Opposition</li> </ol>
3	The 'Industrial Party' Trial 1930	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A group of senior industrialists and economists were accused of planning a coup and wrecking the Soviet economy</li> <li>2. This created scapegoats for the failings of the 5 Year plans</li> </ol>
4	Ryutin affair 1932	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ryutin criticised Stalin and collectivisation in a document known as the 'Ryutin platform'</li> <li>2. Stalin accused Ryutin of an assassination plot and called for his execution</li> <li>3. Kirov and others argued against this and Ryutin was imprisoned for 10 years</li> <li>4. Kamenev, Zinoviev and 14 others were expelled for not reporting Ryutin's document earlier</li> </ol>
5	Party purge 1933	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over 570,000 Ryutinities were expelled from the party</li> <li>2. This was designed to restrict the Party membership to Stalin's supporters</li> </ol>

## 3. Kirov's Murder

1	Who was Sergei Kirov?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once a close friend and ally of Stalin</li> <li>2. He was the leader of the Leningrad Party &amp; had a strong powerbase there</li> </ol>
2	What happened before the murder?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stalin's policies came under attack at the Seventeenth Party Congress at the beginning of 1934.</li> <li>2. Following serious economic problem, protests and famine, some Politburo members wanted to slow industrialization</li> <li>3. Kirov sided with the opposition and received great praise</li> </ol>
3	What happened to Kirov?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kirov was shot on December 1934 by a man called Nikolayev.</li> <li>2. Stalin blamed the murder on a Trotskyite faction that was attempting to overthrow the party</li> </ol>
4	What was the impact of the murder?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The assassination was used as an excuse for Stalin's regime to begin widespread purges of the party</li> <li>2. The day after the murder, Stalin gave Yagoda and the NKVD powers to arrest anyone found guilty of 'terrorist plotting'</li> <li>3. Over 100 Party members were shot, thousands were arrested and sent to prison camps</li> </ol>
5	The First Show Trial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In January 1935, Zinoviev, Kamenev and 17 others were arrested and sentenced to 5-10 years imprisonment</li> <li>2. In August 1936 the first major show trial was held for Kamenev and Zinoviev.</li> <li>3. Both men accepted responsibility for Kirov's murder and confessed to plotting Stalin's murder</li> <li>4. Both were executed</li> </ol>
6	What was the purpose of the show trials?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They emphasized the threat to the regime from 'enemies of the state'</li> <li>2. They justified the repressive methods used by Stalin and the NKVD to increase his control</li> <li>3. They were used as a way to shift blame away from economic and social tensions</li> </ol>
7	How did show trials work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Before a show trial, the NKVD made sue that they obtained a signed confession</li> <li>2. They used torture, sleep deprivation, starvation and threats against the family of the accused to ensure they got the confession</li> <li>3. In April 1935 it became legal for children age 12 and up to be treated in the same way, which was an incentive for parents to confess</li> <li>4. In June 1935, the death penalty was extended to include people who did not report subversive activity</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>Dictatorship</b>	A form of government in which absolute power is exercised by a single person or small clique
<b>NKVD</b>	The secret police in the USSR from 1934 onwards
<b>Purge</b>	Remove from an organisation or place in an abrupt or violent way.
<b>Show trial</b>	A trial held publicly with the intention of influencing public opinion

## 4. The Stalin Constitution

1	When and Why?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A new constitution was drafted by Bukharin in 1936</li> <li>2. It was intended to celebrate the triumphs of Stalin's rule and declare socialism had been achieved</li> </ol>
2	What did the constitution say?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The USSR was a federation of 11 Soviet Republics</li> <li>2. Each Republic had its own 'Supreme Soviet'</li> <li>3. Each republic had some powers to create laws</li> <li>4. Ethnic groups were promised autonomy within the Union</li> <li>5. Soviet citizens were promised elections every 4 years.</li> <li>6. Everyone over 18 could vote</li> <li>7. Civil rights were set out – freedom from arrest, of the press, of religion, of speech</li> <li>8. Citizens had the right to work, education and social welfare.</li> </ol>
3	What was the reality?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The promised rights were largely ignored</li> <li>2. E.g. Stalin didn't allow republics to leave the Union</li> <li>3. Soviet citizens did accept and make use of the constitution</li> </ol>

### 5. The Yezhovshchina

1	Who was Nikolai Yezhov?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In March 1937, Yagoda was arrested on Stalin's orders.</li> <li>Yezhov announced his arrest and replaced him as head of the NKVD</li> </ol>
2	What was Order 00447?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin gave the NKVD the power to pursue mass terror with order 00447, passed in 1937</li> <li>This order meant there was no central control over the NKVD</li> <li>The NKVD were given quotas of how many anti-Soviet elements were expected to be arrested according to region</li> <li>It allowed those arrested to be quickly sentenced by NKVD panels called troikas.</li> </ol>
3	What was the impact of Order 00447?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within one month, around 100,000 had been arrested and 14,000 sent to gulags</li> <li>By 1938, 575,000 people had been sentenced and 258,000 of them executed</li> <li>Although the NKVD targeted people considered dangerous to the regime, many innocent people were also arrested</li> <li>Pressure to meet targets meant people started to be arrested randomly</li> <li>People were encouraged to report on their colleagues, friends and family</li> </ol>

### 7. Gulags and the Treatment of National Minorities

1	How did gulags change under Stalin?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More gulags were built during the 30s to house Stalin's enemies</li> <li>From 1937 the gulag population rose from 800,000 in 1835 to well over 5.5 million by 1938.</li> <li>Records were not kept well, and some estimate the population as high as 9.5 million</li> <li>Gulags were no longer about re-educating class-enemies but now used to work prisoners to death</li> </ol>
2	How did Stalin treat national minorities?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin was suspicious of minorities from other countries living in the USSR</li> <li>When war with Japan became a threat, Stalin deported the Korean minority in the far east to Central Asia</li> <li>He also deported 400,000 Volga Germans to Siberia and Central Asia</li> <li>He purged Party leadership of non-Russians and replaced them with people willing to accept Moscow's rule</li> <li>After the invasion of Eastern Poland and the Baltic republics, antisemitic persecution began</li> </ol>

### 6. Mass Terror and Repression at Central Level

1	What was the Trial of 17?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In January 1837, 17 senior party members were accused of plotting with Trotsky, sabotage and espionage</li> <li>They all confessed and 13 out of the 17 were sentenced to death</li> <li>This was likely an attempt to eliminate political rivals</li> </ol>
2	What was the Military Purge?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From May-June 1937, Stalin ordered a purge of the military.</li> <li>He feared the popularity of Civil War generals as well as negative reactions after several officers were caught in show trials</li> <li>8 top military commanders, including Tukhachevsky were accused of spying and plotting with Trotsky</li> <li>All confessed and were executed</li> </ol>
3	What was the impact of the Military Purge?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 'Great Purge' of the Red Army followed the Military Purge.</li> <li>From 1937 to 1939 over 30,000 army leaders were sacked, thousands arrested and executed</li> <li>Anyone objecting to the trials and purges was arrested</li> <li>74 military officials were shot for refusing to approve the execution of their colleagues</li> <li>This destroyed the Red Army's command structure, weakening their military severely</li> </ol>
4	What was the Trial of 21?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In March 1938, Bukharin, Rykov and 19 others were put on show trial</li> <li>They were charged with working with Germany and Japan to plot the assassination of Stalin and overthrow of the USSR</li> <li>They were all found guilty and executed</li> <li>This eliminated the threat of political rivals on the right</li> </ol>
5	How did the purges end?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purges slowed after the end of 1938</li> <li>In August 1940, Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico by a Stalinist agent</li> <li>Trotsky's death signaled end of the threat from the old Bolsheviks who could have opposed him.</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>Gulag</b>	A labour camp used in the USSR from 1930 onwards
<b>Yezhovshchina</b>	A period between 1936 and 1940 when Yezhov led the NKVD and a series of purges

### 9. What was the impact of the purges?

1	Stalin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin's wife's suicide may have been a trigger for the start of the Terror</li> <li>He was paranoid and vindictive in his elimination of rivals</li> <li>He personally promoted the purges and had the power to end them</li> </ol>
2	Bolshevik Party	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Party had always used terror to consolidate and maintain power</li> <li>Stalin escalated these techniques</li> </ol>
3	Local Party activists	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some local officials acted on their own agendas</li> <li>Some promoted terror but knew they wouldn't be checked on</li> </ol>
4	Ordinary individuals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals chose to denounce others, which escalated accusations out of control</li> <li>People denounced others for a range of reasons from self preservation to personal vendettas</li> </ol>

### 10. What was the impact of the purges?

1	Victims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 1938 a third of all Party members had been purged</li> <li>According to KGB records released in 1995, 650,000 people were executed from 1937-38</li> <li>Families of those executed or imprisoned often lost their jobs, were evicted, exiled or sent to the gulag</li> </ol>
2	Impact on the USSR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Yezhovshchina destabilized the USSR's state and economy</li> <li>Skilled personnel were purged when industrialization depended on their skills</li> <li>Stalin scapegoated Yezhov for the problems caused by the purges</li> <li>He was secretly tried and executed in 1940 and replaced by Beria</li> <li>Some opportunities were created for other party members to progress</li> <li>Stalin emerged with a position of supreme power</li> </ol>

### 11. Culture and Society

1	What was the purpose of cultural change?	1. To promote and instill the propaganda ideals of the Soviet propaganda
2	Was it a good thing?	1. Culture could provide education, moral guidance and entertainment 2. It was also a weapon of repression and enforced conformity

### 12. Impact on religion

1	How did the Orthodox church suffer?	1. Religious schools were closed and the teaching of religious creeds 2. By 1941 nearly 40,000 churches had been destroyed 3. Sunday was abolished as a day of rest 4. Many priests were victims of the purges
2	How were Muslims affected?	1. Soviet Muslims had their property and institutions taken 2. Sharia courts were abolished 3. Pilgrimages to Mecca were forbidden from 1935 4. Imams were also imprisoned or executed
3	How were Jews affected?	1. Jewish schools and synagogues were closed down
4	How successful was the religious control?	1. The power of the Orthodox church was broken 2. But many people continued to have a strong faith 3. Some traditionalist Muslims murdered those who followed Soviet orders

### 13. Impact on women

1	What was the new family code?	1. New laws concerning women passed in 1936 2. Made abortion illegal 3. Banned contraception 4. Gave tax breaks to mothers with 6 or more children 5. Made divorce more difficult and made adultery a criminal offence
2	Why did Stalin introduce a new family code?	1. The birth rate fell by 25% between 1928 and 1932 and industrialisation needed lots of workers 2. Loss of millions in famine 3. Stalin preferred traditional family roles and associated them with stability and discipline 4. Increased youth crime, prostitution and homelessness
3	What was the impact of the code?	1. Trotsky called his policies 'the Great Retreat' 2. Abortions dropped sharply to 570,000 in 1937 but began to increase by 1939 3. Birth rate failed to rise 4. Numbers of women working continued to increase – 13 million by 1940 up from 3 million in 1928 5. Divorce rate remained high – 37% in Moscow in 1934 6. Working women were still expected to do housework and childcare

### 14. Impact on young people

1	How did education change?	1. In the 1930s. The USSR returned to more traditional education, emphasizing technical subjects and practical skills 2. From 1935, the quota for proletarian children for selective secondary schools was stopped 3. The curriculum promoted nationalism and military training. Exams were reintroduced 4. The Vesenkha was put in charge of higher education 5. Wide focus on improving literacy. By 1941 94% of the urban population was literate and 86% of the rural population.
2	What was the Komsomol?	1. An organization for 10-28 year olds that encouraged socialist values and discouraged unhealthy or selfish behavior 2. The group became directly affiliated with the Communist Party in 1939 3. Members took an oath to live, study and fight for the Fatherland. 4. They helped carry out Party campaigns, assisted the Red Army and policy and volunteered for building projects like Komsomolsk
3	How did young people suffer in the 30s?	1. Social disruption caused by collectivization and industrialization led to the rise in orphaned and abandoned children 2. These children were linked to 'hooliganism' 3. Children 12 or older were to be tried as adults 4. Only a minority did not conform to the Party's expectations and were interested in Western culture

Key word	Definition
<b>Authoritarian</b>	When power is not focused on one person but shared amongst everyone.
<b>Komsomol</b>	The youth division of the Communist Party
<b>Socialist man</b>	The ideal citizen of the USSR who embodied communist ideals
<b>Totalitarian</b>	A political system that demands absolute obedience to the state and where every citizen is subject to central state authority
<b>Zhenotdel</b>	The Women's Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party

### 13. Impact on men

1	What was it like for skilled workers?	1. Improved training opportunities from training and education 2. From 1931, skilled workers were paid more 3. A skills shortage meant good workers were in high demand
2	What was it like for unskilled workers?	1. Many former peasants found labour discipline hard to manage 2. Many unskilled workers moved around to avoid getting a bad record 3. Living conditions were poor and overcrowded

### 14. How did life vary regionally?

1	Urban	1. Regulated hours and wages 2. Free education 3. Overcrowded living conditions 4. Lack of basic services 5. Water rationed & food shortages
2	Rural	1. Better access to food - Access to private plots 2. Collective farms had health clinics and schools 3. Free education 4. Dekulakisation 5. Requisitioning of most produce

### 15. Foreign Policy by 1929

1	What was the USSR's international position?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The West feared being infected by the spread of Communism</li> <li>The relationship with Germany had been strengthened with the Treaty of Rapallo and Berlin</li> </ol>
2	Why was foreign policy important?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin's industrialization depended on foreign expertise</li> <li>Stalin was focused on the security of Russia facing threats from capitalist countries and Japan</li> </ol>

### 16. Continued cooperation with Germany

1	How did cooperation with Germany help the USSR?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German expertise helped rapid industrialization</li> <li>70% of foreign workers in 1930 were German</li> <li>The USSR benefitted from German military training</li> <li>Germany was the USSR's biggest export market</li> </ol>
2	How did Stalin strengthen the link?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1931, the USSR negotiated a continuation of the Berlin Treaty</li> <li>The relationship stayed strong until 1933 and the rise of Hitler</li> </ol>

### 17. Entry into the League of Nations

1	Why did Stalin want to join?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin wanted to emphasize collective security</li> <li>Stalin was worried about the growing power of Hitler</li> </ol>
2	How did it benefit the USSR?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offered the potential for international cooperation against Hitler</li> <li>Gave the USSR international influence – possible over Britain and France</li> </ol>
3	How did it benefit the West?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It strengthened collective security against aggression from Germany and Japan</li> <li>Both had withdrawn from the League of Nations, increasing this threat</li> </ol>

### 18. Pact with France and Czechoslovakia

1	What alliances did Stalin seek?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 1932: Non-aggression pact with France</li> <li>December 1932: Non-aggression pact with Poland</li> <li>May 1935: Mutual assistance pacts with France and Czechoslovakia</li> <li>These promised military intervention if the other country was attacked but they were not followed by serious planning</li> </ol>
2	How did the alliances affect the Comintern?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin's goal of collective security reversed the Comintern's policy</li> <li>From 1935, foreign communist parties were encouraged to focus on fighting fascism</li> </ol>

### 19. The Spanish Civil War

1	What was the Spanish Civil War?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil War broke out in Spain in July 1936</li> <li>Fascist supported nationalists aimed to overthrow the socialist Republic</li> </ol>
2	How did Stalin intervene?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From September 1936, Stalin sent military equipment and advisors to help the Republic</li> </ol>
3	How did Stalin's policy change?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1937 onwards, Stalin aimed to prolong the Civil War</li> <li>He was hoping to wear down the German and Italian forces supporting the nationalist side</li> </ol>
4	What was the impact of this war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin was disappointed by the weak response from France and Britain in dealing with fascism</li> <li>This suggested to Stalin that they may also be weak in attacking Hitler</li> <li>Increased fear and dislike of the Soviets in the West. Threatened future collaboration</li> </ol>

### 20. Responses to aggression

1	What was the Munich conference?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In September 1938, Germany, France, Britain and Italy met to discuss Germany's claims to the Sudetenland</li> <li>The USSR and Czechoslovakia were excluded</li> <li>This, along with appeasement, was a clear signal to Stalin that the USSR shouldn't expect a strong Western response to German expansion</li> </ol>
2	How did war with Japan break out?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Japan had invaded Manchuria in 1931 and the rest of China in 1937. This was a threat to Russia</li> <li>Japan and Germany signed the Anti-Comintern pact in 1936 (Italy joined in 1937)</li> <li>In May 1939, minor border confrontations turned into war</li> <li>Although the USSR defeated Japan in August 1939, the war showed Stalin the need to remain strong in the East</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>Appeasement</b>	The British policy of giving Hitler land and other advantages to avoid war
<b>Comintern</b>	The international organisation responsible for spreading Marxism
<b>Fascism</b>	A form of far right government characterised by dictatorship and oppression
<b>League of Nations</b>	An organisation for international organisation Set up after WWI

### 21. The Nazi-Soviet Pact

1	Why was it signed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin was always focused on keeping the USSR safe from war</li> <li>The Pact could be seen as a tactic to delay the inevitable German invasion until the USSR was more prepared</li> </ol>
2	What did Stalin gain?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breathing space to prepare for war</li> <li>Avoidance of war on two fronts</li> <li>The destruction of the anti-Soviet Poland</li> <li>Territorial gains in the West – the Baltic States by 1940</li> <li>The chance to stay neutral while the capitalist countries fought</li> </ol>
3	What did Hitler gain?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoidance of war on two fronts – Hitler</li> <li>Raw materials from the USSR</li> <li>Free reign to invade Poland – conquered by end of Sept 1939</li> <li>Trade deals secured</li> </ol>
4	Stalin's mistake?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin had calculated that Hitler could not invade until Summer 1942</li> <li>Germany defeated most of Western Europe by June 1940 and was ready to invade</li> <li>He believed he could trust Hitler and ignored warning signs from his spies</li> <li>In June 1941 Hitler invaded Russia</li> </ol>