Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia
1917 – 1953
Quick Questions

Dissent and Revolution
The Condition of Russia Before the February/March Revolution
The February/March Revolution
Developments Between the Revolutions of 1917
The October/November Revolution
QUICK QUESTIONS
(BASED ON INTRO & CHAPTER 1 IN AQA TEXTBOOK)

1. When was serfdom abolished in Western and Central Europe compared to Russia?
2. How large was the Russian Empire?
3. How much Russian land was inhospitable?
4. Of the Russian population, how many were Russian and what fraction lived in European Russia?
5. What was the annual industrial growth rate from 1894 to 1904 as the fifth largest industrial power?
6. How many factories were there in Russia and how many workers?
7. What industries did Russia particularly prosper in and in which cities grew phenomenally?
8. How much did Russia’s urban population grow between 1867 and 1917?
9. What was the percentage land ownership in 1905 compared to 1915?
10. What was the traditional and inefficient type of farming used in Russia?
11. Why did the middle class become frustrated with the industrial and agricultural change?
12. Describe three aspects of urban workers’ living/working positions.
13. What were workers allowed to be a part of in 1905?
14. How many workers died in the Lena Goldfields massacre and how many strikes were there in 1913?
15. What were the richer peasants known as?
16. What was the Russia’s system of government before 1917 and why was it ruled like this?
17. What was head of the Orthodox Church under Tsarist rule?
18. How many soldiers were in the army in 1914, and during WW1?
19. Who were the secret police during Tsarist rule?
20. Why did the moderate ‘liberals’ begin to gain influence over local government in 1864?
21. What were socialists influence by?
22. What was made that created the Duma, and what reinforced the Tsar’s power over the Duma?
23. Name three opposition groups.
24. What happened to his grandfather, Alexander II and state two things that influenced him?
25. What did the Tsar dismiss which called for a National Assembly?
26. Who was the Tsarina and of what nationality was she?
27. Why was Rasputin introduced to the Tsar’s family and why was he disliked (and eventually killed)?
28. What event led to the Tsar and Tsarina being blinded to the discontent in Russia?
29. What caused Russia’s involvement in WW1 and by when was the Russian army mobilised?
30. What were the two reasons that led to the dissolution of the Duma?
31. What event clearly portrayed an anti-Germanic sentiment in Russia?
32. What battles dampened morale in 1914 and how many were dead/wounded during one of them?
33. In 1914, how may rifles were available to use and how many shells were available per day?
34. How many desertions were there at the end of 1916 as a result of the Brusilov offensive?
35. What did the zemstva oppose in July 1914 and what did they establish to provide medical facilities?
36. What did factory owners and businessmen set up to help coordinate production?
37. In June 1915, what did the zemstva and municipal dumas join to form and what did it claim to do?
38. What did over half the Fourth Duma’s deputies form and what did they demand?
39. What did defeats in Galicia lead to and why was it a disastrous decision?
40. What were the changes made to ministers in 1915 and 1916?
41. How did the government fund the war and what did damage to industry and grain exports lead to?
42. What did the conscription of peasants lead to?
43. What did the very poor railway system lead to?
44. How much did the cost of living increase and how many strikers were in Petrograd and Moscow?
45. Who felt discontent in Russia?
ANSWERS TO QUICK QUESTIONS
(BASED ON INTRO & CHAPTER 1 IN AQA TEXTBOOK)

1. 1848 in Western/Central Europe and 1861 in Russia (but status as ‘former serfs’ stayed until 1917).
2. Roughly 8 million square miles.
3. 2/3 of land because it lay north of the 50th parallel.
4. 185 million (less than 1/2) of the population were Russian and 3/4 lived in European Russia.
5. 8% per year.
6. 25,000 factories which employed 3 million workers.
7. Coal, pig iron and oil. Moscow, St. Petersburg and in the ‘Baku’ area by the Caspian Sea.
8. 7 million to 28 million. (St. Petersburg went from 1 million in 1900 to 2.4 million in 1916).
9. 20% to 50% (while 3.5 million peasants were asked to move from overpopulated land to Siberia).
10. Strip-farming (only 10% of peasant holdings moved beyond this type of farming).
11. Their economic gains weren’t matched with equal political advancement.
12. Long hours / low pay / lack of machines / unsafe / cramped, dirty living / sharing with other families
13. Trade unions (and strikes were theoretically forbidden).
15. Kulaks (led to some peasants getting very rich and others getting very poor).
16. Russia was ruled by autocracy. It was ruled because of the Tsar’s ‘divine right’, by God, to rule.
17. The Tsar.
18. 6 million in 1914. 12 million in WW1.
19. The Okhrana.
20. The zemstva were created.
22. The ‘October Manifesto’ created the Duma. The ‘Fundamental Laws’ reaffirmed his autocracy.
23. The Liberals (made up of Kadets, Octoberists, Progressives). SRs. SDs.
24. Alexander II was blown up by a revolutionary bomb. Influenced by Alexander III and his tutor.
25. A zemstvo petition (he said it was a ‘senseless dream’).
26. Her name was Alexandra. She was German Princess.
27. He could ‘cure’ Alexsei’s haemophilia. Had influence over the Tsar and was drunk and flirtatious.
28. The Romanov tercentenary in 1913 / the Tsar became Commander-in-Chief of the war.
29. Russia’s involvement was cause by Pan-Slavism. Russian army mobilised by July 1914.
30. Dissolution caused by voting in war credits and it not wanting to burden the country during war.
31. Changing more German name for capital – St. Petrograd, to more Slavonic name – Petrograd.
32. Battle of Tannenburg - East Prussia. Defeat - Masurian Lakes. 300,000 dead/wounded in BoT.
33. 2 rifles for every 3 soldiers. 2 to 3 shells per day.
34. 1.5 desertions.
35. ‘Military zones’ is what they opposed. They formed a ‘Union of Zemstva’.
36. The formed a ‘Congress of Representatives of Industry and Business.’
37. Formed Zemgor (All-Russian Union of Zemstva and Cities). Claimed to help Tsar in the war effort.
39. Made Tsar become Commander-In-Chief of war. Disastrous because Tsar blamed for failures.
40. Changed 4 Prime Ministers, 3 Foreign Secretaries, 3 Ministers of Defence and 6 Interior Ministers.
41. Funded war by raising taxes and huge loans. Caused massive inflation (money worthless by 1917).
42. Not enough peasants to farm land so food shortages and hoarding food instead of selling.
43. Shortages in food and fuel.
44. Increased by 300%. 30,000 strikers in Moscow and 145,000 strikers in Petrograd.
45. Ordinary people were patriotic but desperate. Tension in army. Political discontent.
1. How many Petrograd workers demonstrated on the anniversary of Bloody Sunday in January 1917?
2. What was said to have catalysed the February/March revolution?
3. On Monday 14th February, how many workers protested from the 58 factories in Petrograd?
4. On Wednesday 22nd February, where were 20,000 workers locked out of and why?
5. Why is Thursday 23rd February significant and how many workers were on strike?
6. State 3 things the 200,000 protestors did on Friday 24th February?
7. On Saturday 25th February, what happened to Shaleef, the Nevskii Prospekt and some Cossacks?
8. What did Rodzianko warn the Tsar of and how did he react on Sunday 26th February?
9. On Monday 27th February, who did the Tsar order and what did he want him to do?
10. On Monday 27th February, what happened in the Volynskii regiment and what followed after?
11. What did the Duma do on Monday 27th February?
12. What did the High Command do on Monday 27th February?
13. What did the revolutionaries do on Monday 27th February?
14. What was the Tsar ‘too late’ in doing on Tuesday 28th February?
15. Where were the opposing revolutionary Parties during the February/March revolution?
16. What did the historian James White find?
17. What are ‘soviets’ and what does their emergence in Petrograd and other towns suggest?
18. What influenced the Petrograd Soviet’s ‘Order No. 1’ which was produced on 1st March?
19. State 3 promises of ‘Order No. 1’.
20. What title did the Petrograd Soviet take and how many members did it have by 10th March?
21. What happened to the Tsar’s train that meant he never returned to Petrograd?
22. Who pressured the Tsar to resign and what did the Petrograd Soviet promise him?
23. What effectively ended Tsarism as a whole?
24. What happened to the Tsar and his Council of Ministers after the Tsar’s abdication?
25. Who was the first head of the Provisional Government and what was he before he was head?
26. What did the name ‘Provisional Government’ suggest?
27. Where was the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet set up?
28. How did workers, soldiers and peasants see the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet?
29. What was the Petrograd Soviet made up of and how many of the 42 members were workers?
30. Who was the only member of both, the Petrograd Soviet and the Provisional Government?
31. State 3 promises of the Provisional Government that the Petrograd Soviet also agreed with.
32. What was the name of the police force that replaced the Tsar’s?
33. How did the Provisional Government disagree with the Petrograd Soviet in regards to soldiers?
34. How did the Provisional Government disagree with the Petrograd Soviet in regards to war?
35. What did Milyukov announce on April 1917 and what happened as a result?
36. Who replaced the Prince Lvov as Prime Minister in July 1917?
37. What was Russia reliant on to survive the war?
38. Why didn’t the Provisional Government was to hold election for a Constituent Assembly?
39. How did the Provisional Government convince the peasants to wait for elections?
40. What revolution were the Petrograd Soviet waiting for?
ANSWERS TO QUICK QUESTIONS
(BASED ON CHAPTER 2 IN AQA TEXTBOOK)

1. 150,000.
2. The announcement of the that bread rations would be introduced from the 1st March.
3. Around 100,000.
4. Locked out of Putilov Steel Works because pay talks collapsed in the management of the factory.
5. It was International Womens’ Day. 90,000 workers on strike (240,000 people in total on streets).
6. Overturned Tsarist statues / waved red flags / wore red rosettes / shouted revolutionary slogans / sang ‘La Marseillaise’
8. He warned the Tsar of the situation in Petrograd. He reacted by ignoring and dissolving the Duma.
9. He ordered Khabolov. Wanted him to restore order by military (around 40 demonstrators killed).
10. A sergeant killed his officer dead. Led to 66,000 soldiers mutinying armed with 40,000 rifles.
11. They held a meeting and set up a 12-man Provisional Committee to take over government.
12. They ordered troops to march in capital but changed their mind and gave support to the Duma.
13. They set up a Soviet which to take over government and began to organise food supplies for city.
14. Offering to share power with the Duma.
16. A liberal group with some politicians were planning a coup and a revolutionary workers’ group.
17. Soviets are councils. Suggests some sort of organisation by socialist leaders and Petrograd Soviet.
18. Influenced by mutineers at the Kronstadt Naval Base.
19. Units elect deputy to Soviet + agree political control of PS / Duma obeyed only if PS agree / Weapons controlled by soldiers’ committees / Soldiers have citizens’ rights when off duty / No honorific titles / Soldiers not addressed in ‘ty’ form.
20. Took title of ‘Soviet Workers’ and Soldiers’ Deputies.’ Had 3000 members.
21. Diverted by rebellious railway workers and forced to stop as Pskov, 200 miles from Petrograd.
22. Chief of General Staff, General Alexeev. The PS would recognise a PG formed by members of Duma.
23. The fact the Grand Duke Mikhail refused to be the new Tsar.
24. They were placed under house arrest.
25. Head was Price Lvov. He was a wealthy aristocrat and zemstva leader.
26. It was only temporary and elections would be held for a Constituent Assembly soon.
27. PG set up in Duma chamber the right wing of Tauride Palace. PS set up left wing of Tauride Palace.
28. PG: Self-appointed group of wealthy tainted by Tsardom. PS was more democratic.
29. Radical socialist intellectuals, Mensheviks and SRs. 7 were workers.
30. Alexandr Kerensky.
31. General amnesty for political prisoners / Civil liberties / abolition of legal disabilities / trade unions and striking / election on Constituent Assembly.
32. People’s Militia.
33. PG wanted to discipline soldiers + restore order, PS wanted workers and soldiers assert ‘rights’.
34. PG believed new regime would lead to reprised war effort, PS wanted end to war.
35. Government would continue fighting until ‘just peace’. Milyukov + Guchkov forced to resign.
36. Alexandr Kerensky.
37. French loans.
38. SRs would win peasant votes / Bolsheviks attracted workers.
39. They said key policy changes, like land distribution, were still to come.
40. The ‘bourgeois revolution’ as forecasted by Marx.
QUICK QUESTIONS
(BASED ON CHAPTER 3 IN AQA TEXTBOOK)

1. How many members of Bolsheviks were in their Party and the Soviet during Feb/March Revolution?
2. Who were the first major leaders to reach Petrograd in mid-March and what did they do first?
3. What policy was adopted by other left-wing socialists in mid-March?
4. When did Lenin return from Switzerland and what did this signify?
5. Who helped Lenin return to Russia and why was this advantageous to them?
6. What did Lenin write between 7th and 26th March and what was made clear in these documents?
7. How did Lenin’s belief differ from the Mensheviks in terms of the Marxist Stage Theory and Russia?
8. What did Lenin theorise was going to happen to the rest of Europe and what was this known as?
9. What were Lenin’s demands (not April Thesis) summed up as, and what was his motto?
10. State 3 fears people had about Lenin and his proposals.
11. Why did Lenin abandon overthrowing the PG and what did he claim in his speeches?
12. How many socialists were added into PG after Milyukov + Guchkov’s resigned. What did this mean?
13. What did Lenin win majority of in April and how did he do this?
14. What did the ‘All-Russian Congress of Soviets’ vote in confidence of and by how much on 3rd June?
15. Who demonstrated in July using Bolshevik slogans and why was this problematic for Lenin?
16. What did the Bolsheviks do to fight against ‘The July Days’?
17. State three consequences of ‘The July Days’.
18. Why was Kornilov appointed Commander-in-Chief?
19. Who supported Kornilov and who didn’t?
20. What did the Bolsheviks form after the Kornilov coup and what did this do?
21. How did the Bolsheviks portray the Kornilov coup through propaganda?
22. How much did Bolshevik membership increase between February and October?
23. In October, how many Bolshevik newspapers and Red Guards were there?
24. In September, what happened to Trotsky and where did the Bolsheviks win majority?
25. What did Kerensky do on 5th October?
26. What did Trotsky do to protect Petrograd from attacks from ‘civil Kornilovites’?
27. What did Lenin suggest to the 12-man Central Committee of Bolshevik Party on 12th September and which two members particularly urged restraint for this?
28. Why was the Novaia zhin created?
29. How did Trotsky whip up support in factories?
30. What was set up on 16th October and how many of its 66 members were Bolsheviks?
31. Where was the Bolsheviks headquarters?
32. How many of the 18 Petrograd garrison units declared their allegiance with the Soviet?
33. How many Red Guards, Baltic sailors and soldiers were controlled by the Bolsheviks?
1. Bolshevik party had 23,000 members and 40 representatives in the Soviet of 1500.
2. Kamanev and Stalin were the first to arrive. The took control of the party newspaper, Pravda.
3. Support the PG / Continue war / Continue Soviet leadership.
4. Lenin returned on 3rd April. Signified the Bolsheviks beginning to forge their own path.
5. Germans helped Lenin. It was advantageous as they knew he would stir up trouble.
6. Lenin wrote ‘Letters from Afar’. Made clear that Party’s job was to lead people into a second revolution.
7. Lenin wanted to skip ‘bourgeois revolution’ into ‘proletariat revolution’ as Russia was too weak.
8. He believed that whole of Europe would have revolution. Known as ‘permanent revolution’.
9. Beliefs summed up as ‘peace, bread and land’. His motto was ‘All power to the soviets’.
10. Bolsheviks said radical proposals would do more harm than good / Allegations of Lenin being paid by Germans / Menseviks said it would provoke right wing support / PG opposition was unrealistic.
11. To win over people who feared civil war. Said he should have credit for what happened in Russia
12. 4 socialists were added. Meant that PG moved more to the left.
13. Won majority of Central Committee of Bolshevik Party. Did this through sheer force of personality.
15. Kronstadt naval base demonstrated. Problematic as he couldn’t condemn or support the action.
17. Bolshevik/Lenin credibility impacted / Pravda closed / Leaders arrested / Lenin + Stalin fled / Trotsky + Kamenev imprisoned / Izvestia denounced leaders / Kerensky is Prime Minister.
18. Failure of offensive in Galicia led by Brusilov / Increased desertions / More anti-war sentiment.
19. Landowners + businessmen, Milyukov and Kadets agreed. SRs, Mensheviks and Bolsheviks didn’t.
20. Petrograd Red Guards. Made better parliament unit from militia groups to defend worker interests.
21. Poured scorn in Kerensky government. Said they were only ones who hated Kornilov consistently.
22. 23,000 in February to 200,000 in beginning of October.
23. 41 Bolshevik newspapers. 10,000 Red Guards.
24. He became chairman of executive committee of Petrograd soviet. Petrograd and Moscow Soviets.
25. Sent radical army units out of Petrograd to prepare for front-line service.
26. On 9th October, he created a ‘military revolutionary centre’.
27. Suggested that ‘History will not forgive us if we do not assume power now’. Kamanev and Zinoviev.
28. Outlet for Kamenev and Zinoviev’s worries about Lenin’s plan.
29. He sent Bolshevik speakers around to factories.
30. ‘Military Revolutionary Committee’ (under Trotsky and Dzerzhinsky). 48 were Bolsheviks.
31. The Smolny Institute.
32. 15 of the Petrograd’s garrison units.
33. 200,000 Red Guards. 60,000 Baltic sailors. 150,000 soldiers.
QUICK QUESTIONS
(BASED ON CHAPTER 4 IN AQA TEXTBOOK)

1. State 3 causes of the October/November revolution.
2. What did Kerensky do on 23rd October in rebellion of the Bolshevik revolution?
3. Why did Kerensky’s attempts stop the Bolsheviks fail?
4. Whose plan was followed through the night of 24th-25th October and what was the plan?
5. On the night of 24th-25th October, what key buildings/places were taken over?
6. What was Lenin doing on the night of 24th-25th October?
7. What did Kerensky do on 25th October?
8. What threatened Red Guards at the Winter Palace and what signified the start of Bolshevik attack?
9. Who met at 10.40pm on 25th October and who declared of protest against Bolsheviks?
10. What announcement did the Congress make on 26th October?
11. Who opposed Lenin’s Decree on Land on 27th October?
12. How many members of newly elected ‘All-Russian Central Executive Committee’ were Bolshevik?
13. What was Sovnarkom and why were Bolsheviks the only members of it?
14. How many people ‘at the most’ were actively involved in the revolution according to Trotsky?
15. How many protesters are believed to have been at the square front of the Winter Palace?
16. After 27th October, how many deaths were there said to be and why was this?
17. What did Trotsky admit the revolution essentially was?
18. Which Bolsheviks spoke out against the revolution on 25th October?
19. How many delegates voted in favour of socialist government?
20. Who walked out of the Congress, and therefore, who was left in the Congress?
21. What did Trotsky shout at those who left the Congress?
22. Who refused to co-operate with the Bolsheviks?
23. Where did Kerensky set up his new headquarters and who comprised his army?
24. On 29th October, who demanded a ‘united socialist government’ and what did Lenin do in reaction?
25. On 2nd November, what did ‘The Declaration of Rights of the People of Russia’ permit?
26. On 3rd November what ended a ten-day battle for Moscow?
27. What did Lenin do to end division in the Bolshevik party on 3rd November?
28. After the revolution, what did the Bolsheviks still not have full control over?
29. Who did Lenin reluctantly allow into Sovnarkom and what terms was this under?
30. State 3 of Lenin’s decrees that directly supported workers.
31. State 2 of Lenin’s decrees that directly supported peasants.
32. State 3 of Lenin’s decrees that directly had Bolshevik motives.
33. State 3 of Lenin’s decrees that directly supported soldiers.
34. What was created in December 1917 and what did it do?
35. What was everyone to be addressed by and what were party members to be addressed by?
36. What were banned to combat opposition and what was purged to combat opposition?
37. Who was the secret police body from December?
38. Who were rounded up and imprisoned from December?
1. Events since Tsar abdication / Weakness of PG / Defeat in WW1 / Political moves of Bolsheviks / Deteriorating economic situation / Resentments of soldiers, peasants and workers.
2. Stop Pravda + Izvestia / Restrict power of MRC / Send troops to Petrograd.
3. Troops loyal to Bolsheviks said actions were betrayal of Soviet + principles of Feb/Mar revolution.
4. Trotsky’s plan. Plan was 5000 soldiers/sailors from Kronstadt move into city.
6. Remained in hiding until evening where he travelled to Smolny to take charge of insurrection.
7. Left Petrograd, borrowing car from American Embassy disguised as nurse, to rally military support.
8. Threat: Artillery of St Peter and Paul fortress / Guns of Aurora battleship. A shot fired from Aurora.
10. Capture of Winter Palace / Arrest of remaining PG members.
11. Mensheviks and left-wing SRs.
12. 62 of the 101 were Bolsheviks (29 were left-wing SRs).
13. A ‘Soviet of People’s Commissars’. Only Bolshevik because left-wing SRs refused to join.
14. 25,000 to 30,000 ‘at the most’ were actively involved (5% of all the workers and soldiers in the city).
15. 10,000 to 15,000, but many would have been bystanders and not involved in the ‘storming’.
16. No more than 5 deaths. Due to PG not having military resource to fight.
17. It was a series of ‘small operations, calculated and prepared in advance’.
18. Zinoviev and Kamenev. (Tsereteli, Menshevik leader, said Bolshevik power won’t last over 3 weeks).
19. 500 of the original 670.
20. ‘Moderates’ walked out. This left Bolsheviks and left-wing SRs coalition in control.
22. Civil servants refused to serve / Bankers refused to provide finance.
23. Set up in Gatchina. Army made of 18 Cossack regiments and small force of SR cadets and officers.
24. The Executive Committee of Railwaymen. Lenin ignored it until it fizzled out.
25. The nationalities of Russia to break away and have full independence if they chose to do.
26. The Kremlin in Moscow was taken.
27. Issued ultimatum, so those unhappy with with government could leave. For example, Kamenev left.
28. Large areas of countryside.
29. Left-wing SRs under terms that delegates had to follow the Bolshevik lead.
30. Worker’s decree / Social insurance decree / Decree on Workers’ Control of Factories / Bank decree.
31. Social insurance decree / Decree on Land / Rights of people in Russia decree.
32. Press decree / Rights of the people of Russia decree / Decree to outlaw sex discrimination / Decree to establish the ‘All-Russian Commission for the Suppression of Counter-Revolution, Sabotage and Speculation’ / Decree on the Church.
33. Decree on Peace / Rights of the people of Russia decree / Military decree.
34. Veshenka (Council of the National Economy). Supervised and controlled economic development.
35. Everyone addressed as a ‘Citizen’/’Grazhdanin’. Members addressed as ‘Tovarishch’/’Comrade’.
37. The Cheka.
38. Leading Kadets, right-wing SRs and Mensheviks.