

**Subject:** *A-Level History*

**Exam Board:** *AQA*

Welcome to A-level History. We are delighted that you are considering A-level History as an option in Year 12. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete the following tasks to the best of your ability. These tasks are compulsory and must be completed prior to your first History lesson in Year 12.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To develop a basic understanding of the historical context of Russia at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and England in 1485

**Contacts for Support:**

Mrs Johnson and Mrs Young – Please email via Insight or visit room 16 or Departmental Office

**A) Russia at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

**Objectives:**

To understand the nature of the Tsar's powers at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century  
To identify problems that Russia faced at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



Hi, I'm Nicholas Romanov. I become Tsar in 1894 – emperor of Russia. However, in 1917 I will abdicate and by the time I am murdered in 1918 the Russian Empire will have collapsed, and a new revolutionary force, the Bolsheviks, will have seized power.

**Task 1 – Understanding the Tsar's powers.**

Article I of the 'Fundamental Laws of the Empire', declared: 'The Emperor of all the Russias is an autocratic and unlimited monarch. God himself ordains that all must bow to his supreme power, not only out of fear but also out of conscience.'

- i) **What does Article 1 suggest about the Tsar's powers? Use key words from the source in your explanation.**

**Task Two**

Read the information below. Identify the type of problem from the coloured words and the seriousness of the problem on a scale of 1 -5 (5 being the most serious).

- The Russian army
- Weaknesses of Nicholas II
- Poor Agriculture
- Poor economy
- Poor government and bureaucracy
- Extremism
- Russia's political backwardness
- Problems in society
- Russification
- The peasant problem
- Any other problems?
- Size and diversity
- Poor communications

<u>Russia's problems when Nicholas II came to power</u>	What type of problem? Scale?
In 1894, imperial Russia covered an area equivalent to two and a half times the size of the USA today. At its widest it stretched for 5000 miles; it measured 2000 miles. It covered a large part of two continents. European Russia extended eastward from the borders of Poland to the Urals mountain range. Asiatic Russia extended eastward from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean.	Size and diversity 4
Communications were poor. Most of the roads were hard-packed earth which became impassable in winter. Railway was backward with only as much track as Britain. The most important route was the Trans-Siberian railway which crossed Russia from Moscow in the west to Vladivostok in the east. This journey took more than a week of continuous travel.	
The greater part of the population, which between 1815 and 1914 had quadrupled from 40 million to 165 million, was concentrated in European Russia. The diversity of culture, religion and language throughout the empire was astonishing, ranging from sophisticated European Russians living in St Petersburg, to nomadic Muslim peoples in the desert areas of the south, to the peoples who wandered the vast spaces of Siberia, living and dressing very much like native Americans.	
The Tsar was assisted by the Imperial Council, a Cabinet of Ministers, which ran the various government departments, and the Senate, concerned with supervising the operation of the law. These bodies were much less powerful than their titles suggest. They were appointed by the Tsar, not elected, and they did not govern; they only gave advice. They had no authority over the tsar, whose word was final in all matters.	
By the beginning of the 20th century all the major European countries had some form of democratic government. Not so Russia; it remained outside the mainstream of European political thought.	

<p>There was no parliament and political parties were illegal before 1905. There had never been a free press - the government censored books and newspapers. Supporters of reform had to go underground. In the 19th century there had grown up a variety of secret societies dedicated to political reform or revolution.</p>	
<p>Opposition groups were frequently infiltrated by agents of the <i>Okhrana</i> (the Tsar's secret police). As a result, raids, arrests, imprisonment and general harassment were regular occurrences.</p>	
<p>The striking features of the social structure were the very small commercial, professional and working classes and the 80% of peasants in the population.</p>	
<p>Russia had not achieved the major industrial growth that had taken place in the 19th century in such countries as Germany and Britain. The size of Russia and its undeveloped transport system had limited the chances for industrial expansion. Its lack of banking system made it hard for businesses to begin.</p>	
<p>Agriculture was backwards. Land in Russia was a source of national weakness rather than strength. Much of Russia lay too far north to enjoy a climate or a soil suitable for crop growing or cattle rearing. When there was a bad harvest many peasants would starve to death.</p>	
<p>The great number of peasants added to the problem. There was not enough fertile land to go round.</p>	
<p>Among Russia's governing class, less 1% of the population, there was a deep prejudice against granting rights to the mass of the people. Over 80 % of the population were peasants and their size as a social class and coarse ways meant they were regarded with fear and contempt by the elite, who believed that these dangerous 'dark masses' could be held in check only by severe repression. The elite spoke of the 'safe ignorance' of the population, implying that any attempt to raise the educational standards of the masses would prove highly dangerous, socially and politically.</p>	
<p>Life in the armed forces was harsh for the common soldier. The Russian army was notorious in Europe for the severity of its discipline and the grimness of the conditions. Conscription was used as a punishment for peasants.</p>	
<p>The cost of maintaining the army and the navy was 45 % of the government's annual expenditure. This was by far the largest single item of state spending, (compared with the 4% devoted to education).</p>	
<p>The higher ranks of the army were the preserve of the aristocracy. Commissions were bought and sold, and there was little room for promotion on merit. This weakened the army as a fighting force.</p>	

<p>The civil service which ran Russia was a corrupt bureaucracy whose nepotism and incompetence were the main reasons for Russia's backwardness. Writing in 1868, Alexander Herzen accused it of 'sucking the blood of the people with thousands of greedy, unclean mouths'.</p>	
<p>The size and diversity of the empire made it extremely difficult to govern. The national minorities resented Russian control, and 'russification' (making non-Russians use the Russian language instead of their own, wear Russian-style clothes etc). Russian officials were put in to run regional government in non-Russian parts of the empire. The national minorities saw russification as an attack on their way of life and a policy that discriminated against them. During the 19th century there were a number of uprisings from national groups seeking more autonomy (self-government) their parts of the empire.</p>	
<p>There was considerable opposition to the tsars in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This included revolutionary movements like the People's Will, which in 1881, managed to assassinate Tsar Alexander II. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a new revolutionary party, the Social Democrats, grew up, centred around the ideas of Karl Marx. His revolutionary ideas were attractive to many Russians who were disillusioned with the populist movement.</p>	
<p>The other main strand of opposition to the tsars were the liberals, who came mainly from the middle classes. They wanted political reform rather than revolution, and were looking for a parliamentary-style system that would reduce the tsar's power to a CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH like in Britain.</p>	
<p>Nicholas II did not want to be tsar and he was not up to the job. He was unable to make decisions, he lacked organizational skills, he was unwilling to engage in politics, he would not read government reports. He made it clear that God had given him the job to uphold the autocracy and not make any reforms to his power. He believed any move towards democracy would lead to the collapse of Russia. He backed the army to viciously put down uprisings. He was not capable of modernizing Russia politically, socially or economically.</p>	

**Task 3**

Explain below which three problems you think are the most serious for Russia at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **B) England in 1485**

### Objectives:

To understand the events in England which led to Henry Tudor fighting Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, 1485.

### Task One

You need to understand the background to Henry Tudor fighting Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485. You need to find the answers to these questions:

- i) Which king died unexpectedly at the **start** of 1483?
  
- ii) Who were the Princes in the Tower? How do they relate to the king above?
  
- iii) What probably happened to the Princes in the Tower?
  
- iv) How does their fate link to Richard, Duke of Gloucester becoming Richard III in 1483?

**Task Two**

**How unstable (lacking in strength) was Richard III's reign, 1483 - 1485?**

Colour code the statements below to show **stability** and **instability** - you can leave some blank if you don't think that they are either.

1) Richard's <b>CORONATION</b> was glorious. Almost all the nobility were present for it.
2) In July he set out on a <b>PROGRESS</b> to the north of England. He was welcomed in many towns.
3) He met representatives from foreign countries. He agreed a <b>TREATY</b> of friendship with Queen Isabella of Castile in the hope that it would bring him international recognition.
4) King Louis XII of France would not make a treaty because he supported the Lancastrians.
5) The progress finished in York. The royal family made a splendid entrance to great cheering. They were given many gifts and Richard's son was proclaimed Prince of Wales.
6) Late July and August, whilst in York, Richard heard rumours of plots in London to rescue the Princes. He sets up a commission called 'OYER AND TERMINER' to investigate this.
7) Richard heard rumours that the French King had offered a safe haven to Henry Tudor.
8) 13 <sup>th</sup> August Richard started to crack down on Henry's relatives in England. Some escaped eg John Welles to join Henry in EXILE.
9) Richard spent most of the crown's money on an expensive funeral for Edward IV so he didn't have much to spend.
10) Rebellions broke out across southern England in October. They were led by Yorkists loyal to the memory of Edward IV and believe Richard has USURPED the throne.
11) The Duke of <b>BUCKINGHAM</b> decided to join these rebellions. He had been Richard's best friend, so this was a big shock.
12) Some of the Yorkists decided to join with Henry Tudor. Lancastrian JOHN MORTON, (a prisoner at Buckingham's Brecon Castle) put Buckingham in contact with MARGARET BEAUFORT (Henry Tudor's mother who is living in England).
13) The rebellion started in Kent but was quickly put down by the loyal Duke of Norfolk.
14) Other rebellions sprang up in Devon and Cornwall but were put down.
16) Buckingham left Brecon to meet with Henry Tudor (sailing from France). His castle was burnt by Richard's supporters, then bad weather meant that his troops ran off and he hid.
17) Buckingham was found and executed in Salisbury market place.
18) When Henry Tudor heard what had happened he sailed back to France.

- |   |
|---|
| 19) Although Buckingham's rebellion was over, Henry Tudor had now emerged as a credible rival because he was seen as the Yorkist household's choice of replacement for Edward IV's sons.  |
| 20) On Christmas Day, 1483, Henry Tudor made a public promise to marry Elizabeth of York if he was crowned king of England.   |
| 21) In an attempt to unite England, Richard continued EIV's war against Scotland, despite Scottish king James III's wish for peace. This was a disaster.  |
| 22) After Buckingham's betrayal Richard felt he could no longer trust powerful nobles so he used people from the gentry. However, he didn't have enough money to reward them properly.  |
| 23) He punished nobles in the south by ATTAINTING them. He gave their lands to northern nobles (who he thought he could trust). These southern nobles now hated him even more.  |
| 24) Richard set up a council to rule the north. He named his young son as leader but handed the running of the COUNCIL OF THE NORTH to JOHN DE LA POLE, EARL OF LINCOLN. In doing so he upset the two most powerful northern nobles - the EARL OF WESTMORLAND and the EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND. |
| 25) As he ran out of money he relied increasingly on FORCED LOANS - making the nobility pay him money or he would put them in prison.   |
| 26) More and more Yorkists left England to join Henry Tudor.  |
| 27) Henry Tudor developed a network of spies who were able to report on which parts of the country were most likely to support him.   |
| 28) Henry's mother's second husband was Lord Stanley, one of the most powerful noblemen. She used his connections to draw up secret support for Henry - although no one would openly declare for him.   |
| 29) Richard heard that the French king had lent Henry 60 000 francs, and 1800 MERCENARIES who were well trained in new fighting techniques.   |
| 30) By the summer 1485 Richard knew it was only a matter of time before Henry invaded.  |

### Task Three

Explain below in BRIEF what happened at the Battle of Bosworth, 1485.