Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 2: Depth study
Option 2C.1: France in revolution, 1774–99
Option 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Friday 16 June 2017 – Morning
Sources Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/2C

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 2C.1: France in revolution, 1774–99

Sources for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From Arthur Young, *Travels During The Years 1787, 1788 and 1790*, published 1792. Young was an English writer on agriculture and economics who travelled widely across France in the 1780s. Here, Young describes a dinner party he attended in Paris in October 1787.

I dined today with a group of people who agreed on one opinion – that they are on the eve of some great revolution in government. The group considered that everything points to it – the confused state of the nation's finances, with a deficit that is impossible to tackle without the Estates-General of the kingdom assembling.

Yet the conversation did not turn to what would be the consequence of such a meeting of the Estates-General or whether an existing or former minister possessed the decisive talents to offer the prospect of real remedies. There was no discussion either about the King who lacks the mental resources to govern in such a situation without ministers or about a royal court which, devoted to pleasure and indulgence, was adding to the country's political and financial problems. Nothing was also said about the great disquiet amongst all ranks of men, who are eager for some change, without knowing what to look, or hope, for. Nor was the strong desire for liberty, increasing every hour since the American Revolution, mentioned.

Altogether, these things form a combination of circumstances that promise to cause an upheaval unless some talented and courageous leader takes the helm to guide events, instead of being driven by them. It is very remarkable that no conversation about the consequences of a meeting of the Estates-General occurred. However bankruptcy was a much discussed topic.

Source 2: From a Royal Edict issued by the French King on 16 August 1788. The Edict suspended payments made by the royal treasury.

His Majesty has not despaired of the nation's fortune. He has considered that, if the nation's distress is great, its resources are even greater. Nothing is threatened except by anxiety and fear. Since the crisis should become less serious as the meeting of the Estates-General approaches, there is a need for provisional arrangements which should be followed by a complete recovery.

These arrangements must be such that, until the meeting of the Estates-General and even throughout the year 1789, all payments are guaranteed, and the undertakings most affecting the public credit are safeguarded from all alarm and disquiet.

This is what His Majesty wishes to achieve in ordering that a part of the payments made by the royal cashier will not be made in paper money, since His Majesty is aware of its inconvenience and risks. Payments will be made in certificates of the royal treasury. These certificates will carry interest at five per cent and, when circumstances allow His Majesty to raise a loan, these will be accepted for payment just as readily as money.

Option 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Sources for use with Question 2.

Source 3: From Bernard Pares, *My Russian Memoirs*, published 1931. Pares was a regular visitor to Russia before 1914 and served as British Military Observer to the Russian Army during the First World War. He was also in Russia during the civil war. Pares was a prominent academic specialising in Russian history.

It was not a surprise to me when Lenin declared his New Economic Policy. Of course, a man of such determination would never have given the signal for 'economic retreat', which meant in plain words a retreat from Communism, until he was compelled to. There were already signs enough that the development of the country was going completely against his theory. This retreat came with the victory in war over the Whites and their allies. Until then, Soviet Russia was like a besieged city and could only have a hand-to-mouth policy in economics as in anything else. But directly they had won their war, the Communists had to recognise the complete economic breakdown caused by the total application of their theory. This fact was recognised very sincerely by the Commissar for Industry, Rykov, in a report to a Congress of National Economic Councils in Moscow in January 1920.

Though the system had been applied during a civil war, this was, and was meant to be, not merely War Communism, such as is appropriate to a besieged city, but instead pure Communism. Its failure was self-evident.

Source 4: From a speech by Lenin delivered at the 9th Congress of Soviets in December 1921.

So far, comrades, we have handled things very, very badly in this economic area, as we must frankly admit. We must recognise this shortcoming in policy and not try to cover it up. We must do everything possible to eliminate it and understand that the foundation of our New Economic Policy lies in the alliance of the working class and the peasantry. There are only two ways in which proper relations between the working class and the peasants can be established in future. If large scale industry is flourishing, it can immediately supply the small peasants with a sufficient amount of goods, or more than previously. In these circumstances, a proper relationship can then be established between manufactured goods and the supply of surplus agricultural goods coming from the peasants. Then, the peasants, including the non-Party peasants, will acknowledge, by virtue of this experience, that this new system is better than the capitalist system. We speak of a flourishing large-scale industry, which is able to supply all the goods the peasants are in urgent need of, and this possibility now exists.

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