Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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History

Advanced

PAPER 2: Depth study

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

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

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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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 Louis-Sébastien Mercier, *Scenes of Paris*, published 1781–88. A member of the third estate, Mercier was a writer with moderate political views, who observed the lives of all social classes in Paris in the years before the revolution. Here he is commenting on the rights of the nobility.

> The nobles' castles are numerous in all of our provinces and the nobles occupy large landed estates. These nobles' castles also own rights over hunting, fishing and cutting wood, which are frequently misused. Furthermore, these castles still conceal those arrogant noble gentlemen who effectively shut themselves away from the rest of the population of France. Just like the monarch, the nobles continue to oppress the poor despondent peasant by imposing their own taxes on rural labourers all too easily.
>
> The rest of the nobility surround the throne of the monarch, begging all the time for pensions, placements and positions. They want all the advantages for themselves – dignities, employments and preferential treatment. The nobility will not allow the common people to have either promotion or reward, whatever their ability or the services they have performed for their country. The nobles prevent this from happening. Yet, in contrast, the nobles want to secure roles and paid positions within the Church.

Source 2: From the *cahiers* of the nobility of Dourdan and Cambrésis in northern France. The *cahiers* were lists of grievances, petitions and suggestions for reform drawn up, on King Louis XVI's orders, by each of the three estates in March–April 1789. In total, some 25,000 *cahiers* were produced.

We, the nobility, recognise that it is a fundamental principle that the government of the kingdom is monarchical; that the monarchy is based firmly on the hereditary principle; and that no female has a claim to the throne.

The order of the nobility desires that, in the Estates-General, the distinction between the three orders must be strengthened and regarded as an integral part of the constitution. Voting in the Estates-General should only be by estate, not by head, particularly regarding a subject which especially concerns one of the three estates.

The order of the nobility wishes to preserve the sacred rights of property, the prerogatives of rank, honour and dignity that must belong to it, according to the constitutional principles of the French monarchy.

The current rate of poll tax for nobles should not be used as the basis for a new tax system for the nobility, given that the poll tax has been recognised as excessive and disproportionate.

The seigneurial courts* should be preserved as part of the French justice system, while taking the necessary measures to improve their administration.

Noble ownership of hunting rights should be maintained.

The concerns and interests of the provincial nobility should be addressed since they have little access to the favours of the royal court.

***** seigneurial courts – feudal courts that entitled nobles to dispense justice in the areas under their control

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

Sources for use with Question 2.

Source 3: From Victor Chernov, *The Great Russian Revolution*, published 1936. Chernov was a founder member of the Social Revolutionary Party (1902) and served briefly as Minister of Agriculture in the Provisional Government. Here he is commenting on the start of the February 1917 Revolution.

In February 1917, neither the Bolsheviks, nor the Mensheviks, nor the Social Revolutionaries seized the initiative in Russia. They did not lead the workers of Petrograd on to the streets. The workers were driven by something mightier than all these political groups: hunger.

The February disorders began with ordinary food riots because the bakery shops lacked bread. Long queues, initially mainly of women and boys, took out their resentment on the bakers, suspecting them of hoarding flour in order to make money. The police restored order but the protesters greeted them with hostile shouting. The people demanded 'Bread!' but then began to shout 'Down with the police!' But, as soon as thousands of voices were shouting for 'Bread' and 'Down with the police', there appeared the old slogans 'Down with the autocracy!' and 'Down with the war!'

There were disorders but still no revolution. There was no leader, but every revolutionary and democratic group rushed to join the protests. These groups were trying to attract as many people as possible and to inspire them with definite and militant political slogans.

Source 4: From Leon Trotsky, 'On the Eve of a Revolution', published in *New World* newspaper, 28 February 1917. *New World* was a US-based, left-wing Russian language newspaper for Russian immigrants in America. Trotsky, then a Marxist journalist, was working in the United States at the time and wrote this article as the first news of the unrest in Petrograd reached America.

On the streets of Petrograd in February 1917, the masses are demanding bread, peace and freedom. Transport in the city has stopped running and newspapers have stopped appearing. The workers have put down their tools, left their factories and have moved onto the streets. Now, two forces face each other: the revolutionary workers and the army of the Tsar. This workers' protest movement has been mobilised by a lack of bread.

The war has exposed the inadequacy of Tsarism and its allies, the nobility and the bourgeoisie. People began to realise that the Tsarist system was unable to cope with even the most basic military, industrial and supply problems in war time. At the same time, the misery of the people increased and became more and more acute. This was a natural result of the war and the criminal incompetence of Tsarism under the influence of Rasputin.

Under the stress of these events, a profound bitterness has spread among the masses, many of whom probably have never been influenced before by political propaganda. So, we have a disorganised, compromised government and an utterly demoralised army. The propertied classes are dissatisfied, uncertain and afraid. The proletariat are angry, numerically stronger than ever, and embittered by events. All this indicates that we are witnessing the beginning of a Russian revolution.

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: *Documents and Debates: The French Revolution*, By Leonard W. Cowie, © Macmillan, 1988

Source 2 from: *The French Revolution: Introductory Documents*, By D. I. Wright (ed), University of Queensland Press 1974 & *The French Revolution 1787-1804*, P. M. Jones, © Routledge, London 2007

Source 3 from: *Victor Chernov, The Great Russian Revolution (1936) in Documents and Debates: The Russian Revolution*, Niall Rothnie, © Macmillan 1990

Source 4 from: https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1918/ourrevo/ch08.htm