



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2020

WHI01/1B

Pearson Edexcel International GCE

In History (WHI0) Paper 1B

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## **Principal Examiner Report 2020 January**

### **IA Level History (1B Russia)**

#### **WHI01: International Advanced Subsidiary**

It is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of the January cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in this option.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- Across all of the questions, in candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning the structure of the answer to each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require, to varying degrees, understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria by which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem.

#### **Option 1A Russia in Revolution 1881-1917**

- Question 1 was not attempted by any candidate, questions 2, 3, and 4 were.
- In question 1 was based on a key area of the specification but no candidate attempted it. The wording was similar to a previous question of the threat posed by revolutionary groups so it is difficult to explain why no candidate attempted it

- In question 2 candidates were able to consider which of the factors in the question was more significant, however, in questions with this type of format it is not necessary to consider lots of other factors. The focus is to consider the interpretation in the question.

Put a cross in the box  indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer. If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2  SecX 20  
 Question 3  Question 4

(This page is for your first answer) It can be agreed that the impact of Bloody Sunday was more significant in causing the 1905 Revolution than the impact of the Russo-Japanese War. This is due to the fact that Bloody Sunday was meant to be a peaceful protest outside the Winter Palace, however unarmed strikers were attacked, which ruined the reputation of Tsar Nicholas II. In response, strikes and terrorism continued, thus, leading to a Revolution. However, it can be argued that the impact of the Russo-Japanese War was significant as it further highlighted the incompetence of the government.

Before 1905, ~~the~~ discontent amongst peasants and women existed due to low standards of living and poor working conditions. This resulted in them striking for better conditions. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1905, thousands of workers ~~to~~ marched outside the Winter Palace. <sup>to strike for better working conditions</sup> ~~This peaceful protest was led by~~ ~~Grapon~~ <sup>Grapon</sup> led by Father Grapon, an Orthodox Priest. They <sup>wanted</sup> ~~aimed~~ to present a loyal petition to the Tsar so that he would be able to use his powers to improve conditions. However, this was viewed as a threat. This resulted in police opening fire and charging unarmed protestors with their cavalry. This was viewed as a deliberate attack by the government on innocent, unarmed protestors. Estimates suggest that over 200 protestors were injured or killed ~~in~~ during the protest. Even though the Tsar was not present at the Winter Palace when the event occurred, it still

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3  
Turn over ▶

(This page is for your first answer) damaged the Tsar's reputation. The Tsar was considered to be a "Little Father" who would listen to the needs of his people. However, this view was damaged. <sup>Father Gapon</sup> ~~when Gapon~~ stated that "there is no longer a God, there is no longer a Tsar." The Tsar's image had <sup>been viewed</sup> ~~been viewed~~ as people <sup>who looked up to him,</sup> ~~no longer supported him~~ lost respect for him and ~~respected him~~. This resulted in increasing number of people revolting against the government and hence, ~~also~~ causing the 1905 Revolution.

Additionally, in response to Bloody Sunday, there was an increase in the number of strikes and protests in towns and cities like St Petersburg and Moscow. Terrorism by the Social Revolutionaries had increased, they were responsible for over 2000 Political <sup>assassinations</sup> ~~assassinations~~. This included the assassination of the Minister of Interior, ~~at~~ Plehve, in 1905. <sup>There were an increasing</sup> ~~There were an increasing~~ number of attacks on land estates and public buildings. Peasants seized ~~land~~ control of land and squatted in landowner's houses. This was because they feared that the government would repossess the families of those who have not paid ~~to~~ their mortgage payments. This increasing discontent and the Tsar's refusal to take action and solve the issues faced by the Russian people, ~~for~~ resulted in further revolts. This resulted in the 1905 Revolution.

Moreover, <sup>strikes continued in Russia in response to Bloody</sup> ~~the large number of~~ ~~strikes~~ <sup>strikes</sup> in St Petersburg formed the St Petersburg Soviet which would strike for better working conditions and supply food for the strikers. The Soviet was <sup>later</sup> ~~shut down~~ by the government and its leaders were ~~arrested~~ <sup>arrested</sup>. However, this proved that



(This page is for your first answer) the Strikers were able to organize themselves effectively and hence, pose a threat on the government. ~~It's~~ This shows that ~~the~~ Strikers were determined to protest for better conditions, which resulted in the 1905 Revolution.

However, it can be argued that the impact of the Russo - Japanese War in 1905 caused the 1905 Revolution. Russia went to war to pursue ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> expansionist policy and ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> obtain ice free ports as their ports were frozen ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> unusable. Russia wanted to expand over ~~the~~ North China and Korea, however, Japan had similar aims which resulted in direct conflict between Russia and Japan. Russia viewed Japan as inferior and that its army would pose no threat to Russian Army. During the war, after a long siege, Japan overtook Port Arthur. Japan was also able to seize the key town of Manchuria in Mukden. These ~~defeat~~ were humiliating for Russia and it further highlighted the incompetence of the Tsar and his inability to use his power for the betterment of the Russian Army. This resulted in the 1905 Revolution.

Additionally, the most humiliating defeat for ~~the~~ Russia ~~was~~ was the Battle of Tsushima on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1905. The Russian Baltic Fleet sailed halfway across the world, only ~~to~~ be defeated by the Japanese ~~Army~~ Navy. The Russian Fleet lost 25 of its ~~35~~ <sup>35</sup> warships. This humiliating defeat resulted in increased resentment towards ~~the~~ the Tsar and the government, which caused the 1905 Revolution.

Moreover, the ~~Reform~~ Japanese Emperor Meiji had embarked on a series of ~~of~~ reforms for ~~the~~ modernization



(This page is for your first answer) along western lines. This meant that the Japanese Army was well equipped and prepared and they were able to defeat the Russian Army in spite of being smaller in size. The Russian Army were ill equipped and there was a lack of communication between officials in supplying equipment for the Russian Army. This lack of preparation and communication resulted in increased resentment towards the Tsar and his failure to impose reforms to improve the Russian Army. This resulted in the 1905

Revolution - Russia was forced to sign the Treaty of Portsmouth which stated that Russia had to remove its troops from Manchuria and accept Japanese control over Manchuria and Korea. This resulted in the 1905 Revolution.

In conclusion, although the Bloody Sunday did tarnish the reputation of the Tsar, the impact as he was no longer viewed as their "Little Father" which resulted in an increased number of revolts. However, the impact of the Russo-Japanese War was greater as it further highlighted the incompetence of the Tsar and his inability to embark on reforms for the betterment of the Russian Army.



This response gained a low level 4 mark, there was evidence that key issues were considered and there was sufficient knowledge, however, criteria for judgement were weak.

- In question 3 many candidates were knowledgeable on the impact of the First World War, but needed to focus more on the economic chaos it caused. Some candidates ignored the stated factor and discussed only the political impact.
- In question 4 candidates considered whether or not the Kornilov Affair was the most important reason for the Bolshevik seizure of power. Other factors were considered such as the weakness of the Provisional Government and the role of Lenin and Trotsky. Some candidates made their answer a list of factors without really considering the interpretation.