

History AS / A2

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1953

Preparing to Learn

Read – ‘The Russian Revolution – History in an Hour’ / ‘Stalin – History in an Hour’ (Kindle e-books only), ‘Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991 – A Pelican Introduction’ by O. Figes (2014), The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the 21st century by R. Service (2009)

Find – Research the lives of the key individuals in this topic, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky.

Create – A timeline of key events within the period 1917-1953 to give yourself a clear overview of how events and individuals interact over time. Begin with the year 1917 to mind map the key events and issues within this key year which would act as a turning point in Russian history.

Research – The AQA website (link below) to examine what you will study in more detail. We are using the AQA spec 7042. Use the ‘Spartacus Educational’ website to read their notes on the topic (found in Russian History)

Make – Create a list of useful key words and their definitions, for example; Communism, Socialism, Capitalism, Tsar, Revolutionary, Bolshevik, Menshevik.

Think about – 21st attitudes towards Russia as a nation today. Why are the West and the East currently opposed to each other due to recent events and what connections can you see with Russia’s past?

Reflect – Examine some of the sample answers and mark schemes found on the AQA website in order to develop a list of key skills that you will need to apply throughout the course.

Websites to use

AQA A level history - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042>

Spartacus Educational - <http://spartacus-educational.com/Russia.htm>

BBC Bitesize (for GCSE recap on the Russia topic) –

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zj72pv4>

Seventeen Moments in Soviet History - [Seventeen Moments in Soviet History \(msu.edu\)](http://www.seventeenmoments.com/)