



# AS HISTORY

Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Component 2N The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin, 1917–1929

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Tuesday 23 May 2017      Afternoon      Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2N.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

## Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a letter by Lenin to the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party, September 1917.

The Bolsheviks, having obtained a majority in the soviets, can and must take over state power. The majority of revolutionary elements in the two chief cities is large enough to gain power. Why must the Bolsheviks assume power at this very moment? Because the imminent surrender of Petrograd will reduce our chances a hundred times. The people are tired of the indecision and hesitancy of the Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries. The present task is an armed uprising. It would be naive to wait until the Bolsheviks achieve a 'formal' majority in government. No revolution ever waits for that. History would not forgive us. The international situation is in our favour. By seizing power at once we shall win absolutely.

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**Source B**

From a report by Kamenev and Zinoviev to the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party, October 1917, which was subsequently published.

An armed uprising, as Lenin advocates, would threaten our party and the international revolution. The majority of workers and soldiers are for us. But the rest are undecided. It is extremely harmful to overrate one's forces. If we now lose we shall inflict a cruel blow also to the international revolution. The proletarian party's strength is very considerable, but are the workers and soldiers of the capital bursting to go on to the streets? No! The proletarian party will grow, its policy will become clearer to the wider masses. It will continue its merciless unmasking of the Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries, who have ceased to advance on the path leading to a transfer of power to the people.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the revolution of October/November 1917?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**Either**

**0 2** 'The Bolshevik consolidation of power by 1921 was due to the popularity of their policies.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3** 'Soviet foreign policy in the 1920s was successful in strengthening Russia's international security.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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