**Tsarist Russia**

**Alexander II**

* Reasons for Reforms/Aims
* Modernise
* Maintain Autocracy
* Reforms/ Details
* Emancipation
* Legal Reforms
* Military Reforms
* Educational Reforms
* Local Government
* Press
* Success/Impact of Reforms
* Impact on Peasantry
* Impact on Society
* Impact on Monarchy

Perspectives – Tsar Liberator

**Questions**

In what ways, and with what success, did Alexander II attempt to modernize Russia and preserve imperial power?

* “Alexander II tried to reform Russian institutions only because the Crimean War showed that Russia was no longer a great military power.” Use specific examples of Alexander’s reforms to show to what extent you agree with this assertion.
* To what extent did Alexander II’s reforms improve the lives of the Russian peasantry?
* To what extent did the reforms of Alexander II achieve his aims?
* To what extent did the reforms of Alexander II change Russian society by 1881?
* For what reasons, and with what results, did Alexander II try to reform Russian institutions?
* How consistent were the domestic policies of Alexander II?
* “Alexander II had no one to blame but himself for his assassination in 1881.” How far do you agree with this statement?
* “The most dangerous moment for a bad government is usually when it begins to reform itself.” How far do you agree with this assessment of Russia under Alexander II?
* “What happened in Russia during the reign of Alexander II (1855–1881) was more of a revolution than many that went by that name elsewhere.” To what extent do you agree with the assertion that Alexander II’s policies were revolutionary?
* “His measures of reform did not disguise his belief in the need to maintain autocratic rule.” To what extent do you agree with this view of Alexander II?
* “The reforms of Alexander II were mainly aimed at preserving Russian autocracy.” Discuss.
* To what extent do you agree that Alexander II transformed Russian society?
* Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Alexander II’s reforms.
* “Considering the difficulties, he inherited, Alexander II of Russia should be praised not criticised for his reforms.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?
* To what extent did Alexander II’s reforms cause more problems than they solved?

**Alexander III and Nicholas II**

* Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of Russia in the second half of the nineteenth century.
* “Despite his apparently liberal policies, Alexander II was just as conservative as Alexander III.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Compare and contrast the policies of Alexander II (1855-81) and Alexander III (1881-94) of Russia.
* Compare and contrast the domestic policies of Alexander II (1855–1881) and Alexander III (1881–1894).
* “The reigns of Alexander II and Alexander III had more similarities than differences.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Analyse the reasons for, and the nature of, opposition to tsardom in Russia between 1855 and 1894.
* Examine the reasons for the growth of opposition movements in Russia between 1881 and 1914.
* With reference to the period up to 1914, discuss the economic developments that took place in Russia during the reigns of Alexander III and Nicholas II.
* Evaluate the economic and political impact of the domestic policies of Nicholas II between 1894 and 1914.
* “Alexander III was a political reactionary but an economic moderniser.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Assess the impact of the Russo–Japanese War on the reign of Nicholas II up to 1914.
* To what extent were Stolypin’s political and economic policies successful in the years 1906 – 1911?

**Revolutions**

* Analyse the causes and consequences of the 1905 revolution in Russia.
* Discuss the causes and consequences of the 1905 Revolution in Russia.
* Discuss the view that the Provisional Government collapsed because of the power of the Soviets.
* Compare and contrast the roles of Lenin and Trotsky in the Bolshevik seizure of power in  October 1917.
* “There were two revolutions in Russia because of the weakness of the Provisional Government.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* “Russia’s participation in the First World War was the main cause of the February/March 1917 Revolution.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Analyse the impact of the First World War on Russia between 1914 and 1924.
* Compare and contrast the causes and nature of the two 1917 Russian Revolutions.
* Compare and contrast the causes of the February/March and October/November Revolutions in 1917.
* Analyse the causes of the 1917 February/March Russian Revolution.
* Discuss the reasons for the final crisis of autocracy in February/March 1917.
* Analyse the reasons for the success of the Bolsheviks in the second (October/November) 1917 Russian Revolution.
* Why was the Provisional Government in Russia unable to consolidate and maintain its power in 1917?
* Compare and contrast the roles of Lenin and Trotsky in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, and in the foundation of the new Soviet State until 1924.
* Compare and contrast the causes and consequences of the 1905 and February/March 1917 Russian Revolutions.
* Analyse the long term and short term causes of the 1917 February/March Russian Revolution.
* Why did Nicholas II survive the 1905 revolution, but lose his throne in the February/March 1917 revolution?
* To what extent was the Revolution of February/March 1917, in Russia, due to the nature of Tsarism and the policies of Nicholas II (1894 to 1917)?
* Compare and contrast the nature and results of the two 1917 Russian Revolutions.
* “The First World War was the main cause of the 1917 February/March Revolution in Russia.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Compare and contrast the role of the Soviets in the February and October revolutions of 1917 in Russia.

**The Soviet State under Lenin**

* Assess the effects of the creation of the Bolshevik Party on Russia up to 1921.
* “Lenin abandoned ideology in order to gain and consolidate power.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Lenin was able to consolidate Bolshevik rule in Russia by combining popular policies and repression. To what extent do you agree with this statement about Bolshevik rule up to 1924?
* “Lenin had the most significant role in the consolidation of the new Soviet state.” Discuss.
* Compare and contrast the contributions of Lenin and Trotsky to the establishment and consolidation of a communist state in Russia between 1917 and 1924.
* “Lenin’s foreign relations were motivated by practical concerns and not ideology.” Discuss
* Evaluate the factors that enabled Lenin to ensure the survival of the Soviet State.
* “Strong political and military leaders were the main factors in Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
* Evaluate the successes and failures of Lenin’s foreign policy between 1917 and 1924.
* Evaluate the role of terror and coercion in the consolidation of the Soviet state between 1917 and 1924.