

# History: Year 12 transition work

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## Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953

Welcome to the Russia course! The work that has been set here is designed to make you have a good understanding of what Russia was like in 1917 when our course officially begins. It is important to have this background knowledge as it is difficult to understand why a country had a revolution without knowing what it was like before the revolution. There is also some work on key individuals who you will study during the first half of our course – the more you know about them the easier it will be to make sense of what is happening in the course. There is also a bit of general history that, whilst not necessary directly relevant to the course, will help to give you a broader understanding of History as you embark on your A level studies. All articles referred to in the tasks are on the school network: School closure folder, History, transition work. If you can't access these resources please send me an email [sally.wilson@carres.uk](mailto:sally.wilson@carres.uk) and I will send them to you.

### Tasks

1. Read 'Russia in 1900'. Copy and paste the document below into word and make notes about the key issues. You will use this table in your first lesson in September. You are trying to build up a picture of what Russia was like in 1900.

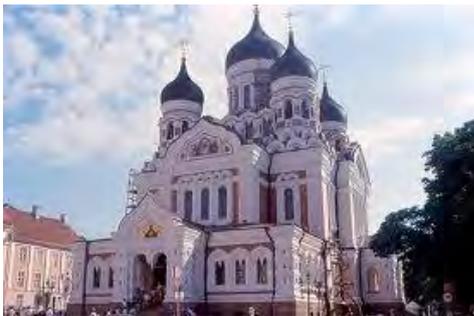
	Notes
<p>The Geography of Russia</p> 	
<p>Peasants</p>	



### Nobility



### The Church



### The Middle Class



Industrial Workers



2. Russian Map work – Print off an A4 map from google of Russia in 1900. Locate and mark the following places:
  - St Petersburg
  - Moscow
  - Tsaritsyn (renamed Stalingrad in 1925)
  - Vladivostock
  - Ekaterinburg
  - Odessa
  - Kronstadt
  - Siberia
  - Ural Mountains
  
3. Read ‘How did the Tsars rule Russia?’ and make sure you can summarise what an autocrat is, how Russia was ruled and what situation Tsar Nicholas inherited in 1894.
  
4. Read ‘Tsar Nicholas II: the man, his personality and his family’ Use the information to make a table in your notes.

Positive leadership/character traits	Negative leadership/character traits

Write a paragraph underneath your table explaining whether you think Nicholas II was a strong leader.

5. Work through 'Was Tsar Nicholas II mainly to blame for the 1905 Revolution?' Read the enquiry focus carefully before you start and follow the instructions looking at each of the factors. At the end of the enquiry write a summary paragraph 'Was Nicholas II mainly to blame for the 1905 Revolution?'
  
6. You need to create character profiles about the following individuals who we will be studying. Have a separate sheet for each individual and I would include a photograph for each so you can 'recognise' them. Try to go beyond just key facts. Use the following questions to help you really think about these individuals (you do not need to answer all these questions, they are just there to give you some ideas of the things to think about when researching).
  - What would be included on a simple timeline of key events in their life?
  - Which big ideas influenced them?
  - What or who influenced them?
  - Did anyone write an obituary? What did it say? Do you think this sounds truthful?
  - Which present day/historical figures do you think they are similar to?
  - What impact did they have?
  - What does their life reveal about Russia?

Individuals:

Tsar Nicholas II

Rasputin

Sergei Witte

Stolypin

Lenin

Trotsky

7. Read/dip into a book or a novel about the Russian Revolution so that you begin to get 'a feel' for the period. Watch a documentary or film about the period. Examples include:
  - Revolutionary Russia, Orlando Figes

- Natasha's Dance, Orlando Figes
- Animal Farm, George Orwell
- Sashenka, Simon Sebag Montefiore (an excellent novel to read over the summer about the Revolution)
- The Russian Revolution: History in an hour, Rupert Colley
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0Wmc8C0Eq0> - All about Russian History.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dP5C59QTuKI> about Rasputin. Once you have watched this and think you know everything about Rasputin, go to BBC Sounds and listen to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/search?q=The+Forum+rasputin&suggid=urn%3Abbc%3Aprogrammes%3Ab01d15g&page=1>

8. When you start the course in September you will be asked to complete an essay question based on the work that you have carried out for these transition tasks. The question will be in the style of essay questions you have done in the past for GCSE. This is the question for the Russian part of the course:

**'The Russo Japanese War was the most important cause of the 1905 Revolution in Russia'. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your answers (18 marks)**

You will have 20 minutes to write this in silence under timed essay conditions in class. You will not be allowed to use notes for this, so you will have to research this yourself and revise for it like you would do for an exam.

**Extra (this is not compulsory – this is just a little extra if you are interested)**

Read E H Gombrich's 'A Little History of the World'.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbXhcGJpZWRhfGd4OjVhOGNhMjY4MjQ1YWY2ZGQ>

It was written for young people in 1935 but the Nazis banned it. It was only translated into English in 2001 because he had argued that the English were inward-looking islanders; why would they be interested in the history of a world to which they did not consider they belonged? Before his death, he thought that the English were perhaps warming up to this lump of land just across the channel. John Major was less hostile to Europe than Margaret Thatcher, and the budget airlines opened up a wider world. So he agreed to an English

edition, though he didn't live long enough to add the chapter on Shakespeare that he had planned.

As you read it, jot down anything you want to find out more about and then research it – Timelines TV, [historyextra.com](http://historyextra.com), Crash course channel on YouTube are good places to start.