



Mark Scheme (Results)

January 2026

Pearson Edexcel International

Advanced Level in History (WHI01/1B)

PAPER 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1B: Russia in Revolution, 1881–1917

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Generic Level Descriptors for Paper 1

Targets: AO1 (10 marks): Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

A03 (15 marks): Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, difference ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-6	• Simple or generalised statements are made about the view presented in the question. • Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the issue in the question. • Judgement on the view is assertive, with little supporting evidence.
2	7-12	• Some understanding of the issue raised by the question is shown and analysis is attempted by describing some points that are relevant. • Mostly accurate knowledge is included, but it lacks range or depth and only has implicit links to issues relevant to the question. • A judgement on the view is given, but with limited support and the criteria for judgement are left implicit.
3	13-18	• Understanding and some analysis of the issue raised by the question is shown by selecting and explaining some key points of view that are relevant. • Knowledge is included to demonstrate some understanding of the issues raised by the question, but material lacks range or depth • Attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement on the view and to relate the overall judgement to them, although with weak substantiation.
4	19-25	• Key issues relevant to the question are explored by analysing and explaining the issues of interpretation raised by the claim. • Sufficient knowledge is deployed to demonstrate understanding of the issues raised by the question and to meet most of its demands. • Valid criteria by which the view can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement. Although some of the evaluations may only be partly substantiated, the overall judgement is supported.

Question	Indicative content
1	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years 1881-1903, there was limited economic change in Russia. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Economic policies neglected light industries, e.g. textiles, and failed to develop smaller machine and electrical industries to reduce the reliance on imports • Witte neglected agriculture and increased grain extractions from the peasants, which limited the development of the rural economy and it remained backward economically • Witte was overly concerned with prestige projects, e.g. railways, which did not develop all of Russia's economy. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Economic policies resulted in the accumulation of state capital, through tariffs and more foreign investment, which allowed the financing of a transport revolution • Witte's policy of high taxation placed financial strain on the masses and harmed the domestic market • Witte's policy of direct state intervention significantly increased industrial production, e.g. coal and iron ore production trebled • The rouble was put on the gold standard as a confidence-building measure, which led to more foreign investment in Russian industry • Economic policies significantly increased Russia's industrial base, e.g. 40 per cent of all industry in 1900 had been founded since 1881. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
2	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether, in the years 1903-14, there was significant change in the way Russia was governed. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The creation of the Duma, which marked a significant political departure in the way Russia was governed, effectively diluted the Tsar's powers and continued to function up to 1914 • Political parties became legally recognised organisations (1905) with the right to hold meetings and sit in the Duma • Press censorship was relaxed from 1905 ushering in a new, less repressive period when political issues could be discussed openly and the main political parties had their own newspapers • The political process significantly changed under the Tsarist regime, e.g. the Duma was not a passive political 'rubber stamp' for Tsarist policies. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Russia's government continued to be underpinned by the loyalty of the Orthodox Church, the army and the bureaucracy, and significant peasant support • The Fundamental Laws of 1906 made it clear that, although the Duma had been established, Tsarist autocracy would continue to be dominant in government • Nicholas II used his political power to marginalise reform-minded ministers, e.g. Witte (1906), and Stolypin was close to being dismissed when he was assassinated (1911) • The Electoral Law of 1907 demonstrated that the Tsar retained considerable political power since the measure excluded virtually all workers and peasants and it was introduced unconstitutionally. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
3	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether Russia's involvement in the First World War was the main reason why Romanov rule ended in 1917. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Russia's entry into the war exposed the backward nature of its economy and military, and this reflected on the inadequacy of Romanov rule and ultimately led to its end • The Tsar's decision to take personal control of the war at the front attracted blame for loss and defeat and fundamentally damaged Romanov rule • Some revolutionary opposition to Romanov rule grew as a consequence of discontent over continued involvement in the war and its impact on food supplies • Over focus on the war effort produced devastating consequences for the economy and this did enormous damage to confidence in Romanov rule and led to its end. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Russia's entry into the war saw the Tsar's reputation soar and there was support for Romanov rule • Opposition to Romanov rule predated 1914 and was not just based on his decision making during the First World War, and this contributed to the end of Romanov rule • The political misjudgement of the Empress in ministerial appointment and taking advice (e.g. Rasputin) fundamentally damaged Romanov rule and hastened its end • The actual situation in February 1917 in Petrograd proved to be the real undoing of the Romanov rule, as women protested about food shortages and supported striking factory workers • Romanov rule was actually ended when the Tsar's brother, Grand Duke Michael, refused to take the throne. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
4	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the period October-December 1917, the main consequence of Bolshevik rule was the Decree on Land. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Bolsheviks introduced the Decree on Land which secured the support of the peasantry, e.g. the abolition of land ownership by the landlord class • Landed estates were placed at the disposal of the <i>volost</i> land committees and the <i>uyezd</i> Soviets of Peasants, e.g. confiscated buildings, implements, livestock and produce were transferred to the people • Local peasant mandates were introduced and were the guide for the implementation of the 'great land reform'. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Bolsheviks allowed elections to the Constituent Assembly to go ahead in November 1917, which proved popular • The Bolsheviks introduced the Decree on Workers Control, which allowed the Bolsheviks to consolidate the support of workers in major cities, e.g. minimum wage, limitation of working hours, elected workers' committees • The Bolsheviks introduced the Decree on Peace, which allowed the Bolsheviks to secure the support of many returning soldiers from the disintegrating Russia front • The Bolsheviks signed the Armistice to end Russia's involvement in the First World War, which secured peace • The Bolsheviks set up the Cheka in December 1917, e.g. the All Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage. Other relevant material must be credited.