Foxford Learning

YEAR 12 History
Paper 2, Option 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Over the course of the topic, I will be able to: -

Topic 1: The rule of Nicholas II, 1894–1905

Key Vocabulary

Autocracy	A system of government in which one person holds absolute, unlimited power.
Orthodoxy	The Russian Orthodox Church; a pillar of Tsarist ideology alongside autocracy and nationality.
Okhrana	The Tsarist secret police, responsible for suppressing political opposition.
Anti-semitism	Prejudice and persecution of Jewish people; widespread and state-sanctioned under Nicholas II.
Proletariat	The urban industrial working class; a key source of revolutionary opposition.
Social Revolutionaries	A revolutionary party representing peasant interests; founded 1901.
Social Democrats	A Marxist revolutionary party; split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks in 1903.
Russo-Japanese War	1904–05 conflict; Russian defeat exposed military weakness and fuelled revolution.
Bloody Sunday	9 January 1905 — troops fired on peaceful petitioners in St Petersburg, triggering revolution.
St Petersburg Soviet	A council of workers' deputies formed during the 1905 Revolution to coordinate action.
October Manifesto	Nicholas II's concession in 1905 promising a parliament (Duma) and civil liberties.
League of Liberation	A liberal middle-class organisation demanding constitutional reform before 1905.

Key Skills

- Analyse and explain the causes, course and consequences of the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- Explain how successive governments responded to opposition and why Tsarism ultimately collapsed.
- Evaluate the reasons for the Bolsheviks' successful seizure and consolidation of power.
- Analyse and evaluate contemporary source material related to the key topics.
- Retrieve knowledge to form verbal and written arguments and compose effective responses to essay questions.

I will understand

Topic 1. The nature of autocratic rule - Tsarist principles of autocracy, nationality and orthodoxy; the oppression of nationalities; anti-semitism; the role of the Okhrana in controlling opposition.

Topic 2. Opposition to Tsarism - Unrest among peasants and workers; middle-class opposition and the League of Liberation; the Socialist Revolutionaries and Social Democrats; reasons for the failure of opposition groups.

Topic 3. The 1905 Revolution - The impact of the Russo-Japanese War; Bloody Sunday and its consequences; the spread of revolutionary activity among peasants, workers and national minorities; the St Petersburg Soviet.

Topic 4. Nicholas II's response to 1905 - The failure of the August Manifesto; the October Manifesto and the response of opposition groups; the crushing of the Moscow Uprising; the extent of the recovery of Tsarist power.