

## **History A Level- Exam Board: AQA**

### **Exam Overview:**

- **Paper 1 – 2 hours and 30 minutes – 40% of A Level**
- Tsarist and Communist Russia: 1855-1964
- **Paper 2 – 2 hours and 30 minutes – 40% of A Level**
- Britain 1951-2007
- **NEA (non-examined assessment) – 20% of A Level**

### **Guide to Exam Papers:**

#### **Paper 1**

##### **Tsarist and Communist Russia: 1855-1964**

1. **Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments are in these three extracts to...?** (30 marks) – compulsory
2. **Choose two 25 mark essays to answer.** They commonly look like this:  
 “Government under Lenin in the years 1917-24 was little different from government under Tsar Nicholas II in the years 1894 to 1905”. Assess the validity of this view (25 marks)  
 How significant was the emancipation of the serfs in 1861 to Russia’s economy in the years up to 1894? (25 marks)

#### **Paper 2**

##### **Britain 1951-2007**

1. **With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying...** (30 marks) – compulsory
2. **Choose two 25 mark essays to answer.** They commonly look like this:  
 “The Conservative’s won the 1959 election due to rising living standards”. Assess the validity of this view (25 marks)  
 To what extent was Thatcher responsible for creating an ‘economic miracle’ in Britain 1979-87? (25 marks)

### **Examination Y12 Summer 2021 Key Topics:**

**Tsarist and Communist:** Russia Unit 1 – Trying to preserve the autocracy (political authority, Alexander II and Alexander III, Russification, opposition, economic and social development, industry, the church and land). Unit 2 – The collapse of autocracy (political authority, Nicholas II, 1905 Revolution, the Dumas, economic and social developments, opposition, WW1, Marxism, the Bolshevik takeover)

**Britain 1951-2007:** Unit 1 –Affluent society 1951-1964 (Conservative leaders, economic successes and failures, social changes, Suez crisis, Special Relationship, EEC and decolonisation). Unit 2 – The 60s (Wilson’s government, start of the Troubles, economic successes and failures, Liberal reforms, social changes, the EEC, Special Relationship and decolonisation). Unit 3 – The end of the post-war consensus (Heath’s government, industrial relations, the Troubles, Wilson and Callaghan’s government, economic successes and failures, social changes, joining the EEC, Special Relationship and the Cold War context)

### **Useful Websites:**

- BBC Bitesize : <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6>
- <http://www.johndclare.net/>

- <https://spartacus-educational.com/>
- [www.aqa.org.uk/history](http://www.aqa.org.uk/history)

Useful resources:

- Rainford Connect – all resources are available on there
- Google Classroom – exam guidance, revision mats and retrieval grids
- Departmental revision booklets
- Departmental example exam questions
- Oxford AQA revision guides

Useful revision tips and specific revision and preparation guidance:

- **Google Classroom** – All resources, revision guides and revision grids have been placed on Google Classroom for you to use
- Create 'Flash cards' focusing on the subject knowledge of your topic to ensure you can answer all exam question.
- Complete as many past paper exam questions as possible focusing on planning, rather than answering to break them down more clearly
- Spend time analysing mark schemes and get familiar with exam technique
- Use of quick quizzes to help to recall key points of information
- Timelines and mind maps are very helpful for recalling large time periods
- Colour code policies to governments
- Top Trumps cards – rulers throughout both courses