

**EDEXCEL
ENTRY LEVEL IN HISTORY**

CORE TASK

**The Russian Revolution, February
1917**

Edexcel
Success through qualifications

Introduction

In February 1917 the Russian government became very unpopular. Tsar Nicholas II was forced to give up the throne on 2 March.

Russia had gone to war with Germany in August 1914. The war had very bad effects on Russia.

You have three tasks to complete. You should first read the sources. You should also use any textbooks or notes that you have. If you use both the sources and your textbooks you will get more marks.

You should write down what you can find out. Try to keep your work in order. You will get more marks if you do.

Task One

This task is asking you to find out about something.

You must try to find out what Russia was like in the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917.

SOURCE A - this is part of the memoirs of Mikhail Rodzianko who lived in Russia during the First World War

In November 1914 I went to a railway station in Petrograd. There were about 18,000 wounded soldiers lying on the floor. One man said to me, "For God's sake get someone to attend to us. No one has looked at our wounds for five days."

SOURCE B - this is a photograph taken at a Russian field hospital in 1914



SOURCE C - these are comments made by Russian generals in reports in 1915 and 1916

We have no supplies and very little food. If we have three days of fighting we may run out of ammunition altogether. Our maps were made eighteen years ago. Since then everything has changed. The roads are getting worse and worse. Artillery and transport are hardly moving.

Task Two:

This task is asking you to find out why something happened.

In February 1917 very serious trouble broke out in Petrograd.

You must try to find out why this happened.

SOURCE A - this is part of a school textbook

By the end of 1916 bread was very scarce in Petrograd. The price had gone up 300%. Everywhere in the city there were queues of people outside food shops. Most of the blame was put upon the government. The Tsar became very unpopular. Many soldiers deserted from the army. Workers began to go on strike.

SOURCE B - this is a description of an incident in Petrograd in early 1917, it was written by an English nurse who lived in the city during the First World War

February 21-Today a poor woman entered a bread shop and asked for bread. She was told there was none. On leaving the shop, seeing bread in the window, she broke the window and took the bread. A general, passing in his car, stopped and told her off. A crowd gathered and smashed his car and then paraded in the street demanding bread.

SOURCE C - this is a photograph taken in Petrograd in March 1917, it shows workers and soldiers.



Task Three

This task is asking you to explain what changes have taken place.

You must try to find out what changes there were to Russia because of the February Revolution.

SOURCE A - this is from a school textbook

When the Tsar resigned on 2 March 1917 there was no one to take his place. Some members of the Duma set up the Provisional Government. They wanted to keep Russia going until a government could be elected properly.

At the same time a committee was set up in Petrograd. It was called the Petrograd Soviet. It represented the workers of the city. The Soviet ordered workers and soldiers not to obey the Provisional Government.

Lenin was in Switzerland. He was sent back to Russia by the Germans. They wanted him to cause trouble in Petrograd.

SOURCE B - this shows you the changes in the daily bread ration in Petrograd in 1917

March	16 ounces
April	2 ounces

SOURCE C - this is part of a newspaper published by the Bolsheviks

The government is against the people. It will destroy the country. We are for the people. We demand:

- an end to the war
 - all estates to be handed over to the peasants
 - worker's control of all factories
 - a fairly elected parliament.
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MARK SCHEME

Task One – Objective One		
Level 1	Information is collected about Russia from either the sources OR a text book and is presented in an unstructured manner, i.e. with no attempt to arrange material under different headings, e.g. details of the war, the army and the casualties etc.	1-5
Level 2	Information is collected about Russia from BOTH the sources and a text book and is presented in an unstructured manner, e.g. details of the war, the casualties, the battles, the Tsar’s role, the extent of the problems etc.	6-10
Level 3	Information is collected about Russia from both the sources and a textbook and is presented in a structured manner showing understanding of chronology, e.g. nature of fighting caused problems, shortages of food and equipment etc.	11-15

Task Two – Objective Three		
Level 1	One cause is given for the outbreak of the Revolution, e.g. inflation etc.	1-5
Level 2	Several causes are given for the outbreak of the Revolution, e.g. inflation, shortages of food, strikes etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of causes is given for the outbreak of Revolution, e.g. shortages of food led to inflation and then strikes, this in turn caused demonstrations etc.	11-15

Task Three – Objective Four		
Level 1	One change is given, e.g. the Provisional Government was set up.	1-5
Level 2	Several changes are given, e.g. Tsar abdicated, therefore Provisional Government set up, Petrograd Soviet founded, Lenin returned etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of changes is given, e.g. Tsar abdicated, therefore Provisional Government was set up, Lenin saw his chance and tried to make life as difficult for the government as possible etc.	11-15

Objective Seven		
Level 1	Students are able to show a general sense of chronology, e.g. in terms of before and after.	1-4
Level 2	Students are able to organise events into an accurate sequence.	5-7
Level 3	Students are able to place events accurately in terms of year and date, e.g. showing understanding of the significance of the passage of time etc.	8-10