History 12

Russian Revolution Study Guide

Test Structure

* Part One – Friday, September 22nd
  + 15-20 Matching Questions
  + 20-25 Multiple Choice Questions
* Part Two – Monday, September 25th
  + 2 paragraph questions
  + 1 Essay question

**Terms**

Karl Marx

The Communist Manifesto

Bourgeoisie

Proletariat

Tsar Nicholas II

Revolution 1905

Soviet

Duma

World War One

Rasputin

February Revolution

International Women’s Day

Dual Power

Provisional Government

Order Number One

Alexander Kerensky

Bolsheviks

Socialists

Vladimir Lenin

April Theses

‘Bread, Peace, & Land’

Leon Trotsky

July Days

Kornilov Affair

Red Guards

Kronstadt

Petrograd Soviet

October Revolution

Constituent Assembly

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

War Communism

Kulaks

Red v. White (Russian Civil War)

Cheka

Red Terror

Kronstadt Rebellion

New Economic Policy (NEP)

Josef Stalin

Politburo

Socialism in One Country

Cult of Personality

Collectivization (5 Yr Plans)

GOSPLAN

Gulags

Holodomor

Purges

Show Trials

Comintern

USSR

Treaty of Rapallo

Fascism

NAZI-Soviet Pact ‘39

Russo-Finnish War ‘39/40

**Possible Paragraph/Essay Questions**

Describe the political, economic and social impact that World War I had on Russia and its people.

The February Revolution is often described as a “leaderless” revolution. Was this really the case? Which people and groups were responsible for the revolution?

Explain why the failures of the Provisional Government led directly to Lenin being able to seize power in October, 1917.

What challenge did the formation of the Petrograd Soviet and the issuing of its Order Number One pose to the Provisional Government?

How did Lenin’s April 1917 speech at Finland Stand and the publication of his April Thesis shortly after radically transform the situation in Russia?

Referring to specific conditions, policies and events, explain Kerensky’s statement that the Provisional Government had “authority without power” while the Petrograd Soviet had “power without authority”.

Explain how the ‘July Days’ and the Kornilov affair each affected the Bolsheviks and their position.

Was the overthrow of the Provisional Government in October 1917 a Bolshevik-engineered coup or a popular revolution?

Discuss the formation, sitting and closure of the Constituent Assembly in December 1917 and January 1918. Why did Lenin permit elections for this body, only to close it almost immediately?

Was the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk a victory or a defeat for the Bolshevik government? What were the short-term and long-term impacts of this treaty, both for the Bolshevik movement and for the Russian people?

Describe the Bolshevik policy of war communism. What was it intended to achieve and how successful was it?

Explain the conditions and causes that led to the Red Terror of 1918. Was the Terror a response to circumstances – or were the Bolsheviks destined to call on terror as a means of ruling Russia?

Which groups or regions opposed the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War? Compare their political objectives, as well as their success in opposing the Bolshevik regime.

Was the New Economic Policy, passed by Lenin and his government in 1921, a “strategic retreat” – or a sign that their revolution had failed?

Evaluate the ideas and actions of Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin, their contributions to the revolution and their efforts to succeed Vladimir Lenin after 1924.

Was the Russian Revolution evidence that communism does not work in practice? Or did the Russian context make socialism impossible to achieve? Discuss.

Evaluate the ideas and actions of Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin, their contributions to the revolution and their efforts to succeed Vladimir Lenin after 1924.

Describe the policies Stalin used to transform the U.S.S.R. into a modern state.

Discuss Soviet foreign policy from the Bolshevik Revolution to the outbreak of WWII. To what extent was the Soviet Union isolationist during this period?