**Year 12 ATAR History: Task 4 Historical Inquiry**

**Research topic: Stalin’s economic policies and their impact on Russia between 1929 and 1941.***You are required to come up with a proposition that you can defend, that is, to create your own essay question for this topic. Take some time to brainstorm this, use words such as evaluate, assess, and use past exam question from SCASA for inspiration.*

**Essay Question:** Evaluate to what extent Stalin’s economic policies impacted Russia between 1929 and 1941.

**Stalin’s economic policies:**

**The Five Year Plans:**

* First plan launched in 1928  
  - The focus was to rapidly expand areas of heavy industry such as coal, oil, iron ore and steel  
  - Little attention was paid to the development of consumer industries
* The second five year plan was launched in 1933 till 1937  
  - Similar concerns saw allowance for development of light industries
* Third five year plan was 1938 till 1941  
  - Cut short due to WW2  
  - Major focus in defence area
* Planning of economy was a ‘top down’ process. Through the state planning body, Gosplan, the party established overall targets but left the commissariats of the various industries to work out the details
* Emphasis in the plans was primarily on heavy industry
* Enormous achievements could not be denied  
  - Massive iron ore and steel centre of Magnitogorsk rose from almost nothing  
  - The giant Dniper Dam and it’s hydroelectric works were built  
  - Coal fields developed  
  - Soviet Union transport network was transformed  
  - Canals were constructed  
  - Industrial development was significant urban growth, not only of established cities but of smaller centres that grew with industrialisation
* The 5 year plans achieved much, but Stalin’s ridiculous ambitious targets were often simply out of reach