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91438



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## Level 3 History, 2017

### 91438 Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event

9.30 a.m. Friday 24 November 2017

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Analyse, in depth, the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**Write ONE essay in this booklet.**

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

Excellence

TOTAL

08

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event that you have studied, using the essay task below.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

**ESSAY TASK**

**Analyse the most important causes of a significant historical event, and the extent to which the consequences of this event changed people's lives at the time.**

Historical event: Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II

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Most important causes:	Key evidence (dates, quotations, places, historiography, etc.):
Changes to people's lives at the time:	Analysis of the extent of the change:

in March

in 1917

Begin your essay here:

The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II "of Russia" was a ~~major~~ significant historical event as it ended Tsarist autocracy in Russia forever. The Romanov Dynasty that ruled for more than 300 years was no longer, and a new form of governing body emerged for the first time in Russia. The most important cause leading to his abdication was World War I in which Nicholas made many critical mistakes, leading to the March 1917 revolution ~~explosion~~ in which the people successfully rebel their leader. Nicholas' abdication would change the Russian people's lives forever. The extent of this impact was most widely felt during the civil war, resulting in the execution of over 100,000 Russian civilians.

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The 1905 Revolution was a minor cause that would later lead to Nicholas' abdication, as ultimately this revolution is ~~short~~ unsuccessful. However this ~~leads~~ begins an evident lack of confidence in their leader. As the people begin to question the 1904 Russo-Japanese war resulted in great failure and embarrassment for Russia. The fight over territory was lost due to a lack of united front and an inadequacy to supply troops at the front line, as problems at home were more concerning involving worker unrest, low wages and a lack of food. To combat this, Father Gapon led the peaceful march of the workers and people to the

winter palace. He created the humble and loyal address which demanded worker's rights to be issued. This included an 8 hour working day, civil unions and an elected duma/parliament. Nicholas' immediate response became known as Bloody Sunday in which he ordered killing hundreds in minutes. the red guards to fire upon advancing crowds. Nicholas' refusal to register the needs of the people continued the loss of support in his leadership. There were then 10 long months of unrest which resulted in the creation of the October Manifesto~~or promise~~ by the Tsar. This allowed for all the workers rights and the creation of an elected duma. However the Tsar would go back on his word that his actions would go through parliament first as he refused to give up all-seeking power. The promises made by the Tsar were sufficient enough to appease the people for the time being, and Nicholas is able to maintain power for another 12 years. Therefore the 1905 revolution is a minor cause as ultimately is unsuccessful. However it is the first attempt at revolutionary action taken by the people as they begin to undermine the legitimacy of the tsarist autocracy. It provided an unsettled environment in which the ideas of revolution as the Tsar begins to lose support from the people and the temporary nature of concessions made in the manifesto meant that people would later face the same issues again.

II

World war I was the most important cause leading up to Nicholas' abdication as this major global

event set Nicholas up to make many mistakes. The losses of the Russo-Japanese war were still in popular memory and many Russian's were not confident in their army, despite forming the largest army involved at five million people. The people were still more concerned by issues at home as starvation was common because the army monopolised all transport, completely disrupting food distribution. Inflation was also at an all-time high to deal with the high cost of war. Despite the army supplying the army, they troops were not supplied efficiently or effectively and by 1918, 25% of troops were unarmed. This caused even further doubt in Nicholas' ability to lead. Nicholas made his most critical mistake when he absented himself from the lives of ordinary Russians to lead troops at the front line. He left his German wife, Alexandra, in charge under the influence of the controversial Rasputin, a religious charlatan, and many distrusted him. That mistake makes world war I the most important cause to his abdication because it was seen by the people as abandonment during harsh times and his absence allowed the people to be removed from any influence of his leadership. This resentment towards their leader created a widely felt desire for his abdication and the need for a change of power in Russia. His later lack of military and government support allowed the people to rebel against their leader in a final revolution.

Another important cause to the abdication of Tsar

\* due to Nicholas' underestimation of the protests as he is not present.

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Nicholas II was the March 1917 revolution as it was the final trigger that set a change in governing practice. The revolt at Petrograd's largest factory combined with international women's day protests for bread was evidence of the large amount of people that felt a change was necessary for power over Russia. Nicholas ordered the police force to stop the protests the next day. This furthered the resentment towards him and therefore the police began to join rioters. ~~This was a~~ <sup>\* This was a</sup> critical point as his loss of military meant that he could no longer apply force to consolidate power. The first official act of the revolution occurs when the Duma continues to meet despite the Tsar's orders not to. They formed the provisional government and upon Nicholas' arrival to Petrograd, they forced his abdication. This is therefore a major cause because the revolution is very successful and begins a complete shift of government over Russia. However, it is of less significance than WWI as the conditions needed for a revolution were created by WWI! <sup>without WWI it is likely the revolution would not have occurred</sup> The beginning of revolutionary action by the 1905 revolution and the complete lack of confidence in the Tsar's ability to lead during WWI as a result of his absence, allowed the people to successfully repel their leader in a final revolution.

On March 15th, 1917, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia officially abdicates, ending Tsarist Autocracy forever. He first abdicated in favour of his son Alexei, but then shifted power in favour of his brother, Grand Duke Michael. He refused the throne, leaving Russia without a Tsar and

\* The Military Revolutionary committee was set up under Leon Trotsky which controlled over 40,000 red guards across Petrograd.

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ending the rule of the Romanov Dynasty for over 300 years. Dual authority then occurs as although the Provisional Government were seen as the <sup>official</sup> leaders of Russia - in reality they always shared power with the Petrograd soviet. The Soviet was made up of the workers council and thus the Bolsheviks were introduced to power. The two political groups functioned well together for some time but came to heads over two key issues; world war I and bread. Lenin returned and created the April Theses under the slogan 'Peace, land, bread'. This appeased the Russian people as he tempted them with what they desired, increasing Bolshevik support dramatically.

The October revolution was a minor <sup>short term</sup> consequence due to Nicholas' abdication as it had very little impact on the people's lives at that time. This is because the revolution was "fought" only between the two governing bodies at that time with little violence and in a short period of 3 days. \* The leader of the provisional government, <sup>ON NEXT PAGE</sup> <sup>TOP OF PAGE</sup> Alexander Kerensky, attempted to shut down Bolshevik support by banning their media outlets and preventing their access to working class areas. This allowed Lenin to convince the Bolsheviks that "an armed uprising was in the order of the day" and their many red guards took over key areas of the city. The provisional government met in an emergency meeting at the winter palace, allowing the Bolsheviks to easily storm in and arrest every member of the provisional government in the name of the military revolutionary committee. This is

both the June offensive and July days but these were both unsuccessful. The Kornilov Affair also occurred in which a military official also fails to exert authority.

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therefore a minor consequence as the Bolsheviks met very little resistance as the Provisional Government had no military forces to call upon. The Bolshevik seizure for power was rapid, lasting only three days, and they only had a small sphere of influence once power was seized. Therefore the October revolution was a minor consequence as there was very little impact on the people's lives at the time as they had barely any involvement as it was "fought" between the two political groups with no violence. However, this revolution does have some significance as it is a complete shift in governing practice and beginning of a communist - sanctioned state. This would not impact the lives of the Russians in a widespread way for some time but the shift in nature and philosophy of government will later affect their lives.

The extent of impact as a result of Nicholas' abdication was most widely felt during the civil war fought between 1918 and 1921 as it resulted in the execution of over 100,000 ordinary people. This war resulted due to the Bolshevik's inadequacy to effectively consolidate power and how little the Russian people's lives ~~had~~ changed from Tsarist autocracy to Bolshevik leadership. The war was fought between the red army of Bolsheviks and white army consisting of all other political parties. Lenin implemented many oppressive measures to ensure a win for the red army which had many consequences for everyday people whilst the white army were not united as they were formed by multiple political groups. War communism

was a Bolshevik introduced policy involving forced labour and food rationing. This meant that starvation among the people was common for the purpose of supplying the red army. The Red Terror was a Bolshevik instigate campaign of <sup>intimidation</sup> ~~retirement~~, arrests and executions in which any person suspected of opposing the Bolshevik's was executed. This had an immediate impact on the lives of Russians <sup>as</sup> many were ~~not~~ living in fear and starvation or at risk of execution. The level of oppressive measures taken by Lenin were so extreme, making this short term consequence of the civil war the most significant as the extent of the impact was felt all across Russia due to the execution of over 100,000 innocent people. It also becomes so evident at this time the failure of the Bolshevik's to implement real and positive changes in the lives of everyday people as they are still facing the same issues that they were hoping would be dissolved from the end of autocracy.

Another significant consequence as a result of the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II was the establishment of the USSR as it allowed them to emerge as a world superpower. Following Lenin's death, he was succeeded by Stalin who began a series of 5 year economic plans. This was of reasonable success as the economy was strengthened between the 1930s and 1940s <sup>1940s</sup> which contributed to the great USSR's <sup>success</sup> in world war two, which allowed them to emerge as a world superpower. However, this was at the expense of many Russians being sent to

Extra space if required.  
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

forced labour camps and ~~starvation~~<sup>famine</sup> also occurs so starvation still continues to be an issue. However these oppressive measures taken by Stalin are loosened in the 1950s by the following leader, ~~Khrushchev~~ Nikita Krushchev, in a process called 'de-stalinisation'. The US and UK became enemies of the USSR which began the temperamental cold war, a state of geopolitical tension between the US and the USSR. The pressure from this cold war put emphasis on the much needed structural and technological developments which reached its peak during the space race. This was a positive change for the people as these developments greatly improved the economy. There was also a 50% decrease in child mortality rates in the 1950s as the population began to recover.\* Therefore the establishment of the USSR is a significant consequence as there were many significant changes in the lives of Russian people as it shaped the way that Russia would transform as a communist state in years to come. The people's lives did improve during this time however there were still some issues present from tsarist autocracy. They were still ruled by one supreme leader which meant a lack of representation of different social classes and lack of political and religious freedoms. The positive gains made by USSR including the much needed structural and technological gains and the decrease of deprivation and oppression

Extra space if required.  
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

in the people's lives at the time were great improvements. However the extent of this impact is lessened to that of the civil war as the positive gains were tempered by the negative aspects mentioned. //

The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia was a major historical event because it changed the Russian people's lives forever. The 1905 beginning ideas of <sup>a</sup> revolution whilst providing an unsettled environment and the complete dissatisfaction in Nicholas' ability to lead during WWI, pulled the final trigger to his abdication in the March 1917. The conditions for this revolution were provided by WWI and it is likely that his abdication may not have happened if he had not made the critical mistake in absolving himself from ordinary people's lives during the war. The impacts of his abdication were most widely felt during the civil war which resulted in 100,000 innocent lives being lost, due to Lenin's oppressive measures. The establishment of the USSR and their emergence as a world superpower has transformed the path that Russia will take for years to come.

## Excellence Exemplar 2017

History		Standard:	AS91438	Total score:	Excellence
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
1	<b>08 – Excellence</b>	<p>Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II</p> <p>Addresses the question in the introduction and outlines their argument as to the most important cause. The introduction indicates that the student is going to construct an argument rather than recount all their knowledge.</p> <p>Important causes are discussed: 1905 Revolution, World War I and the March 1917 Revolution. The student links each chosen cause to the event and successfully argues that World War I is the most important cause. Justification and prioritisation are evident for causation. Although the student outlines the 1905 Revolution as a minor cause, they convincingly argue for its importance and therefore its inclusion is valid and justified.</p> <p>The event is dealt with in a concise manner in a separate paragraph. Significant consequences are discussed and a direct relationship is established between the event and the consequences: October Revolution, Civil War and the establishment of the USSR. An argument is present as to the extent of change to people's lives at the time of the consequence eg little change to people's lives as a result of the October Revolution and the Civil War; significant changes to lives (positive and negative) with the establishment of the USSR.</p> <p>The student has been fairly concise in their response and has not included a plethora of unnecessary factual detail. They have constructed a convincing argument choosing the most important causes (and have not written every conceivable cause). The student has engaged with the 2017 question by discussing change for each consequence chosen and has shown insight by discussing the extent of that change for people.</p>			