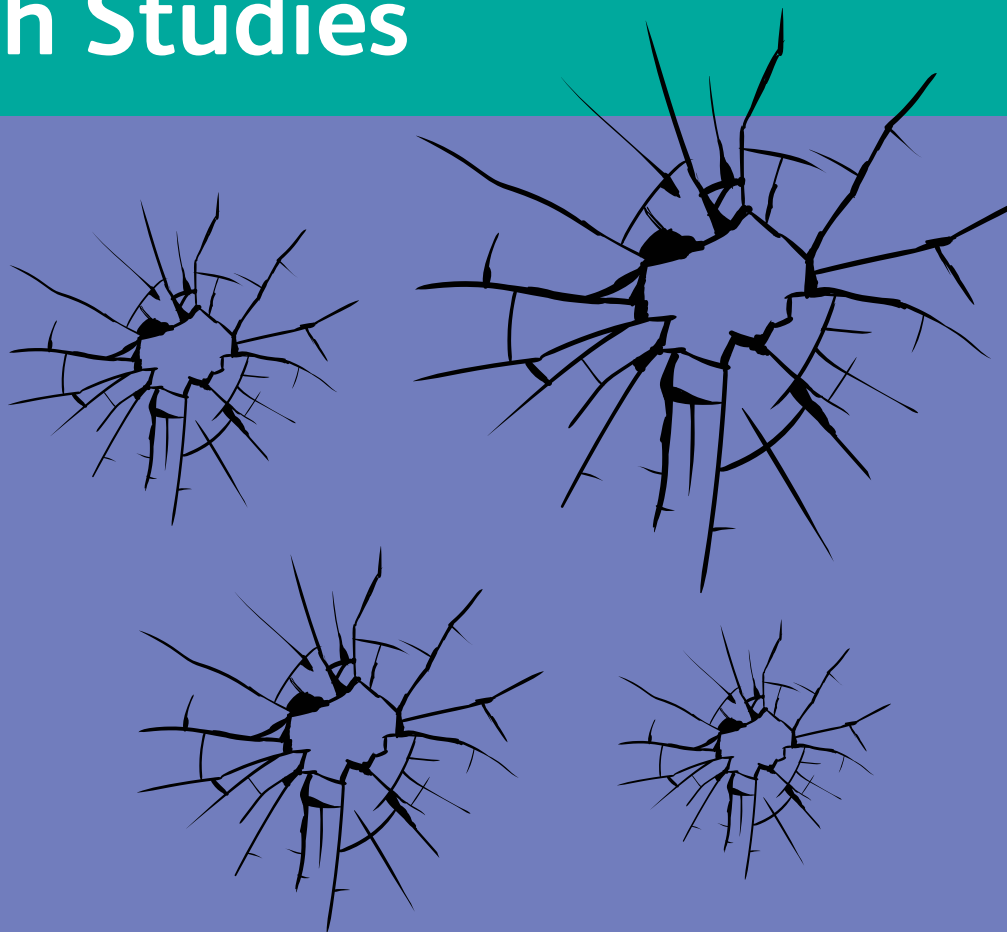


Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) History

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies

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Introduction

This book provides support for five of the Paper 2 topics for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE History. Two historical investigations:

- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24
- The USA, 1918–41

And three breadth studies:

- Changes in medicine, c.1848–c.1948
- China, conflict, crisis and change, 1900–89
- The Middle East: conflict, crisis and changes, 1917–2012

The content of this textbook will help you in a number of ways.

Getting to grips with sources and interpretations

The Paper 2 historical investigations will be examined through questions on two sources and an extract from a historian. This book contains lots of sources and source analysis questions to help develop your source skills. It also contains extracts for you to study along with extract analysis questions to help you think about what argument the author is making. (Another word for a historian's argument is an historical interpretation.)

Although the Paper 2 breadth studies are not examined through source-based questions, these sections still contain lots of sources and it is important that you engage with them. History is at its best when you can see what real people said, did, wrote, sang, watched on film, cried over and got upset about. Sources can really help you to understand the story better and remember it because they help you to see the big concepts and ideas in terms of what they meant to individuals at the time.

Knowledge retrieval (remembering stuff!)

There's no escaping the fact that there's lots of information that you have to learn for IGCSE History. You will need good knowledge of the main events and the ability to use specific details to do well in your exam. But don't worry! This book is written in a way so that it's not going through one thing after the next. That won't help your memory. This book contains all the important stuff for you to know, presented in an engaging way that will help you not get lost. There are knowledge check questions throughout to help you recall and retain knowledge; Activities to help you make links within and between topics; and chapter summaries to help you focus on the key points of each period.

There is a fancy saying that 'memory is the residue of thought'. Basically, if you are thinking about the content in the right ways then you are helping your brain process the information and this will help you remember it. This is the point of the focus tasks (see below).

Focus tasks

Developing the ability to think for yourself is a vital part of history. Being good at history is not a case of memorising all the facts and repeating them. You need to practise studying an issue, deciding what you think, and then selecting relevant points from all the things you do know to help answer questions. The main way we help you with this is through the focus tasks.

Within each section, the key topics are broken down into focus tasks which tackle the main issues of the course content. By working your way through these tasks, you will be in a strong position to form your own arguments and views in relation to the main issues.

Exam preparation

There is lots of evidence that practising exam questions over and over won't make you any better at the exam. In fact, it might make you worse! The focus tasks will help with building the necessary skills, so if you read all the text and tackle all the tasks in this book, we are sure you will be prepared for the challenges of your exam. However, you will probably also want something more exam focused. It is likely that you will want to see the kinds of questions you will face in your exam and how you might go about answering them. The exam guidance section (pages 286–307) will help you. This will take you step-by-step through the exam requirements and will break things down to their most basic level. The pages are also full of hints and tips to make sure you really understand what the questions want you to do.

Good luck with this course. You can do it!



Ben Walsh

SECTION

1

Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24



1905

1910

1905–Feb 1917 Tsarist Russia

Key events

1906
April–July: First Duma

1907
February–June: Second Duma
November: Third Duma opens

1911
Stolypin murdered

1912
July: Third Duma ends
November: Fourth Duma opens

1914
Russia enters the
First World War

Strikes, revolts and revolutions

1905
Tsar survives
an attempted
revolution

1905
Tsar publishes
the October
Manifesto

1912
February–April: Lena Goldfields Strike

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REVISION TASK

At the end of each chapter, return to the timeline below. Look at the events that you have studied in the chapter and choose an image, either from the chapter or from your own research to sum up the chapter. Write down words that you can think of to summarise the chapter you have just studied. Then, from those words, write a short paragraph to sum up the period studied, and the changes that took place.

FOCUS

In 1905 Russia was a huge but backward agricultural country. Its industry was underdeveloped, its people mainly poor and uneducated. It was ruled by a Tsar who had complete power. During this section of the course you will look at how huge changes took place in Russia between 1905 and 1924.

In **Chapter 1** you will explore Tsarist rule in Russia from 1905–14, investigating the revolution of 1905 and why the Tsar's regime survived it, before looking at the actions and policies of the Tsar and his ministers until 1914.

In **Chapter 2** you will investigate the economic, social and political effects of the First World War on Russia and how this helped lead to the collapse of the Tsar's regime in February 1917.

In **Chapter 3** you will examine the incredible events of 1917, including the actions of the Provisional Government and how the Bolsheviks increased support until it seized power in October.

In **Chapter 4** you will look at how the Bolsheviks managed to hold onto power, including the early decrees and how they won the Civil War.

In **Chapter 5** you will explore the economic policies of the Communist government during and after the Civil War and evaluate the achievements of Lenin to 1924.

1915

1920

1925

Feb–Oct 1917 Provisional Government

Oct 1917–25 Bolshevik/Communist Government

1915

Tsar takes command of the Russian armed forces

1916

Rasputin murdered

1917

March: Tsar abdicates and Provisional Government takes over
April: Lenin delivers the April Theses after returning to Russia
October: Bolsheviks take power
November/December: Early Bolshevik decrees

1918

January: Constituent Assembly is dissolved
March: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed
War Communism begins

1921

March: New Economic Policy begins

1921–22

Severe famine across parts of Russia

1923

Russian Empire becomes the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

1924

Lenin dies in January

1917

February/March: Strikes and large street protests, army mutiny
July: The July Days
August: Kornilov Revolt

1919

White armies advance and nearly reach Petrograd and Moscow but the Reds manage to push them back

1921

February–March: Kronstadt Naval Mutiny

1918

March: Civil War begins
July: Tsar and his family murdered
August: Lenin is shot, Red Terror begins

1920

November: The final White army is defeated in Civil War

1920–21

Serious peasants' revolt in Tambov province

Copyright: Sample material

1.1

Tsarist rule in Russia, 1905–14

FOCUS

In 1905 many people in Russia, from nationalities to radical political groups, were discontent. Long-term issues coupled with the short-term events of the Russo–Japanese War and Bloody Sunday to throw Russia into revolution. The Tsar survived with the issuing of the October Manifesto, which split the opposition, but by 1914 his position looked very precarious.

The focus tasks in this chapter will help you decide why there was a revolution in 1905 and how the Tsar survived it.

The Russian Empire

As you can see from Figure 1 Russia was a vast empire, almost 5000 km wide, covering a large area in two continents – Asia and Europe. Its varied landscape ranged from arctic wasteland to the north and hot desert to the south. It included people of many different nationalities, ethnicities, languages and religions. Most of the population lived in the European part of Russia and it was here that the two largest urban areas, St Petersburg and Moscow, were located.

Russia was a major world power. However, unlike other world powers such as Britain, France or the USA, by 1905 Russia was still largely a rural, farming society, though there had been some growth of industry in the nineteenth century. Over 80 per cent of the population lived in the countryside.

Although the Russian population was dominated by peasants, Russian society was dominated by the ruling class and aristocracy (see Figure 4, page 8). Aristocrats had huge estates and owned most of the land in the countryside as well as impressive houses in the cities. They also held almost all political power.

FIGURE 1

The Russian empire in 1900



SOURCE 2

Part of Tsar Nicholas II's coronation speech in 1894

Let all know that I, devoting all my strength to the welfare of the people, will uphold the principle of autocracy as firmly and as unflinchingly as my late unforgettable father.

Profile

Tsar Nicholas II, 1865–1918

- Nicholas was crowned as Tsar in 1896.
- He married Alexandra of Hesse (a granddaughter of Queen Victoria). They had four daughters and a son.
- Both the Tsar and his wife were totally committed to autocracy.
- Nicholas regularly rejected requests for reform.
- He was interested in the Far East. This got him into a disastrous war with Japan in 1905.
- He was not very effective as a ruler, unable to concentrate on the business of being Tsar.
- He was a kind, loving family man but did not really understand the changes Russia was going through.
- By 1917 he had lost control of Russia and abdicated.
- In 1918 he and his family were shot by Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War.

Tsarist rule in Russia in 1905

This huge and diverse empire was ruled by one man, the Tsar, who had absolute power. By this time, most European countries had given their people at least some form of **democracy**, but Tsar Nicholas II was still committed to the idea of **autocracy**.

Under the autocratic system the Tsar essentially had complete authority to make the decisions he wanted. There was an Imperial Council but he could choose whether or not to take its advice. Ministers were appointed and dismissed by the Tsar as he wanted.

The Church

The Russian Orthodox Church had been completely independent from other Christian Churches since the fifteenth century. There were other religions in Russia – some in the west were Catholic, others Protestant, some in the south were Muslim and there was a sizeable Jewish population in some areas – but most people, about 70 per cent in 1900, were members of the Orthodox Church. It held huge influence over society and had much wealth and power. Leading figures in the Church were members of the Imperial Council so held much political influence. Most villages were dominated by the church building and priests were highly respected and consulted by the people. The Church ran the majority of schools in Russia.

The Church was very **conservative** and deeply opposed to change. It taught that the Tsar was chosen and guided by God. It was therefore a powerful supporter of the Tsar and the autocratic system.

Chaos and incompetence

Some of the previous Russian Tsars had been effective rulers, which had helped maintain the autocratic system for centuries. However, most historians and even some of the Tsar's supporters at the time agreed that Nicholas was not a good ruler. He worked hard but he avoided making big decisions and wasted time by getting involved in the tiniest details of government. He did not delegate tasks. In a country as vast as Russia this was a major problem.

Nicholas also felt threatened by talented ministers. He encouraged rivalry between ministers, which caused problems because different government departments refused to cooperate with each other. He appointed family and friends to important positions even though many were incompetent or even corrupt, making money from bribes.

SOURCE 3

The Tsar and his family



KNOWLEDGE CHECK

- 1 What is autocracy?
- 2 Give at least two ways in which Russia was different from other world powers in 1905.

Reasons for discontent

A major reason for discontent throughout Russia was the control and repression which helped maintain autocracy.

Control and repression

Oppressive control was exercised over the Russian people. Newspapers were **censored** and political parties banned. The police had a special force with 10,000 officers who concentrated on dealing with political opponents of the regime. The Tsar's secret police force, the **Okhrana**, was very effective, sending thousands to prison or exile in **Siberia**. Backing them up was the army, particularly the terrifying Cossack regiments, which could be relied on to put down any disturbances. Members of the Russian armed forces all swore an oath of loyalty to the Tsar and his family – their loyalty was crucial to the Tsar's regime.

In the countryside each peasant belonged to a **mir** or village commune which controlled their daily lives. Each area had a 'land captain' – a local noble who dealt with crimes and disputes. Larger regions had governors – aristocrats appointed by the Tsar. They had powers to arrest people, put down trouble, censor newspapers and so on.

There were some elected officials in towns and district councils called *zemstva*, but these were dominated by the nobles and professional classes (such as doctors and lawyers). The *zemstva* did some good work in areas such as health and education and gave people useful experience in running local government. Some people wanted a national *zemstvo* through which elected representatives could help run the country but the Tsar would not accept this.

Discontent among different social groups

Power and wealth was dominated by the aristocracy and the Church, which made up a very small number of Russia's population. Other social groups (see Figure 4) had many reasons for discontent with this situation and the problems this led to in their own lives.

Peasants and the countryside

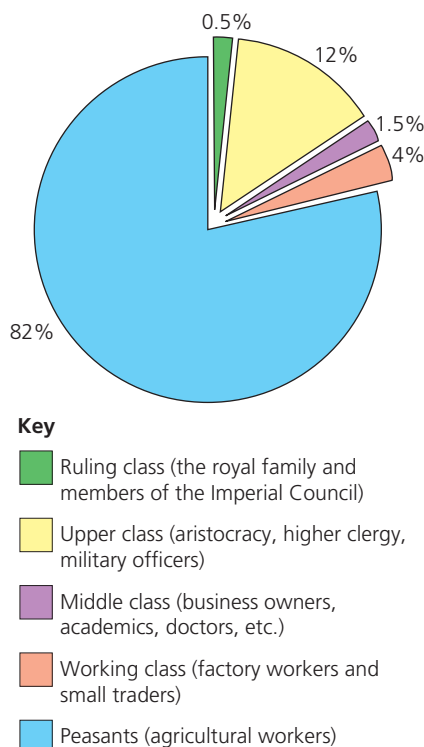
Before the 1861 **emancipation of the serfs**, peasants had been owned by the aristocrats who owned all the land. In 1861 they had been granted their freedom but most land was still owned by the aristocrats. This, combined with a rising population, meant that there was a shortage of good-quality land for peasants, which most resented. Moreover, farming was backward and primitive so crop yields were very low compared with other countries. Living and working conditions were dreadful. Disease and hunger, even famine, were common. There was no education. Life expectancy was only 40 years in some areas. Despite this, mainly because of the teachings of the Church, most peasants were loyal to the Tsar.

Industrial workers

Some peasants left the countryside to work in the newly developing industries in the cities in the late nineteenth century. However, their living conditions hardly improved. They were jammed into slum housing and suffered from illnesses, alcoholism, appalling working conditions and low pay. Trade unions were illegal so there was no way to protest. Most workers were probably no better off than the peasants.

FIGURE 4

Class distribution of the Russian population, 1897



The middle classes

Russia's middle class included people such as business owners, industrialists, bankers, lawyers and university lecturers. As a result of industrialisation, the size of Russia's middle class had increased but it was still very small (see Figure 4). The main concern of many businessmen was the management of the economy. Some were worried about radical groups and controlling their workforce. Many other members of the middle classes were liberals (see page XX).

SOURCE 5

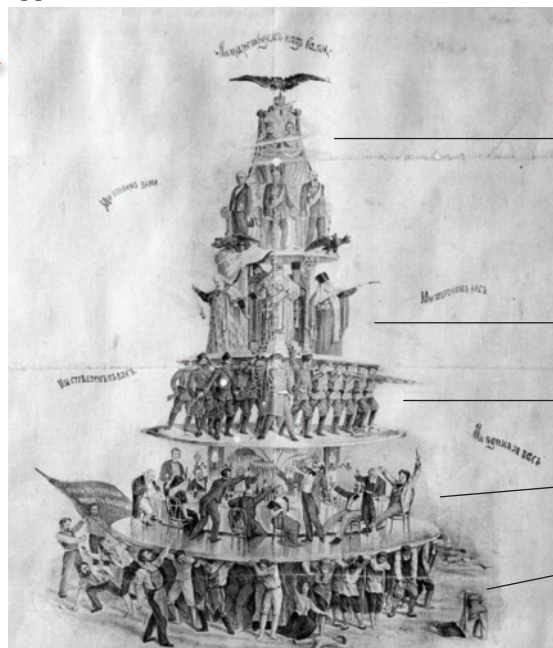
A cartoon showing the Tsarist system. This was published in Switzerland by exiled opponents of the Tsar

SOURCE ANALYSIS

This source is a representation of life in Russia under the Tsar. Do you think it is an accurate portrayal?

SOURCE ANALYSIS

- 1 What reasons for people's discontent are given in Source 6?
- 2 What words does the author use which suggest he is unhappy with the Tsar's regime?



The royal family
(‘We rule you’)

The Church (‘We mislead you’)

The Army (‘We shoot you’)

The capitalists (‘We do the eating’)

The workers and peasants (‘We work for you. We feed you.’)

SOURCE 6

Part of a letter from the landowner and writer Leo Tolstoy to the Tsar in 1902. The letter was an open letter – it was published openly as well as being sent to the Tsar

A third of Russia lives under emergency legislation. The numbers of the regular police and of the secret police are continually growing. The prisons are overcrowded with convicts and political prisoners. At no time have religious persecutions [of Jews] been so cruel as they are today. In all cities and industrial centres soldiers are employed and equipped with live ammunition to be sent out against the people. Autocracy is an outdated form of government that may suit the needs of a central African tribe but not those of the Russian people who are increasingly aware of the culture of the rest of the world.

The nationalities

Many people in the Russian empire were not actually Russian. Only 40 per cent of the Tsar's subjects spoke Russian as their first language. Some nationalities, for example the Poles and Finns, hated Russian rule and wanted independence. Jewish people were seen as a separate group and often suffered racial prejudice and even attacks, which were encouraged by the government.

ACTIVITY

- 1 A ‘feature’ of something is an important part of that object. For example, a feature of a bicycle would be the number of gears it has. A feature of modern Britain is that it is a democracy. List some features of Russia in 1905. In other words, what was Russia like?
- 2 Describing a feature means giving some details about it. For example, if you described the feature of democracy in modern Britain you could say that everyone aged 18 or over has the right to vote – to elect who they want to represent them in Parliament. Pick one of the features of Russia in 1905 that you gave in answer to question 1. Describe this feature.

Political groups and ideas

The Tsar also faced more organised opposition from political groups.

Liberals

By the early 1900s many middle-class people wanted political reform in Russia. Most of these 'liberals' wanted to keep the Tsar, but not autocracy. Most demanded greater democracy and a **Duma**, an assembly similar to the British Parliament.

Radicals

There were several radical groups in Russia. All wanted **revolution** – to overthrow the Tsar and form a completely new government.

- The largest radical group was the Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs). They wanted to take farming land from the aristocrats and the Church and give it to the peasants. Some SRs used violence to try to bring about change. Two government officials and a large number of *Okhrana* agents and spies were murdered by SRs.
- Some radicals wanted **socialism** in Russia. A few, such as the Social Democrats, were influenced by the ideas of Karl Marx (see Factfile) and wanted **communism** in Russia. In 1903 the Social Democrats split into two separate parties, the larger Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks (see page 14). The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. He would play a huge role in later events in Russia.

All radical groups were illegal and many of their members had been executed, **exiled** to Siberia or, like Lenin, were forced to live abroad.

Socialism and communism

Socialism grew out of the industrial revolution in Europe, which saw increasing levels of inequality as industrialists built huge fortunes for themselves while those who worked in their factories struggled on low wages, living in poor conditions. Communism was developed by Karl Marx slightly later. They share many of the same ideas but there are some important differences (see table below).

Other major differences are that socialism is more flexible and can work in a variety of political systems and governments. Most socialists believe in some form of democracy. Communism is an economic and political system. In a completely communist society there would be no need for government at all.

Factfile

Marxist theory

- Karl Marx was a German writer and political thinker. He believed that history was dominated by class struggle and revolution.
- Marx believed that the first change would see the middle classes take control from the monarchy and aristocracy.
- There would then be a revolution in which the workers (the proletariat) would overthrow the middle classes (the bourgeoisie).
- For a short while the Communist Party would rule, but eventually there would be no need for any government as everyone would live in a peaceful communist society.

Similarities between socialism and communism	Differences between socialism and communism
Both believe that capitalism causes many of the world's problems and inequalities.	Communism wants to remove capitalism altogether and create a communist society – without ownership or money. Most socialists want to work within capitalism but minimise its negative effects.
Both want the state or public to own businesses rather than private ownership – workers and 'customers' have a share of the businesses and receive a share of the wealth created by these businesses.	Communists believe all land and property, as well as all business, should be owned by the state. Socialists believe that individuals should be allowed to own their own houses and small businesses.
Both believe government should be secular – i.e. not religious or with religious authorities in positions of political power.	Communism believes religion should be abolished, whereas socialism believes in freedom of religion.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

- 3 What was the difference between liberals and radicals?
- 4 Name two radical groups in Russia before 1905.

EXTRACT A

From *Enquiring History: The Russian Revolution*, published in 2011

... the revolution did grow out of Tsarism and Nicholas's own failure. The main causes of unrest and dissatisfaction with Tsarism amongst liberals, workers, peasants and national minorities are obvious ... [but] by doing nothing, Nicholas made things worse. ...

... For ... his readiness to use force to crush his people, and his callous [uncaring] disregard for their sufferings, he is to blame. I cannot accept the sentimental view that he was a good little man lost in a situation too big for him ... such a view ignores too much.

FOCUS TASK

Why was there a revolution in 1905?

- 1 Study Sources 6 and 7, and Extract A. Identify reason/s for the 1905 Revolution suggested by each.
- 2 Do any of the sources give the same or similar reasons? If so, which ones and for which reason/s?
- 3 From reading the rest of pages 6–11 are there any other reasons that the sources do not mention?
- 4 The historian who wrote Extract A gives the Tsar himself and his actions as the main reason for the revolution. Do you agree? When you have decided, write a paragraph explaining your decision.

Reasons for the 1905 Revolution

There were three main events that turned discontent into revolution.

Hunger

A poor harvest in 1901 led to widespread famine in 1901–02. This caused peasants to revolt and strikes and unrest in the cities. The government responded with further repression.

The Russo–Japanese War, 1904–05

Manchuria was a coal-rich part of China which bordered Russia. Both the Tsar and Japan's Emperor wanted it to be part of their countries. Open war between Russia and Japan erupted in February 1904.

The Tsar hoped the war would help to unite his subjects behind him. This might have happened if he had been successful, but the Russian armed forces suffered a series of disastrous defeats and the Tsar refused to seek peace. The war resulted in higher taxes, higher food prices and shortages. Most Russians did not care about Japan or Manchuria. Those who did care were angered by the incompetence of the Tsar and his commanders in losing to the Japanese.

Bloody Sunday

Tensions all came together on Sunday 22 January 1905. A crowd of 200,000 protesters, led by the priest Father Gapon, went to the Winter Palace to give a petition to the Tsar (see Source 7). However, Nicholas had left St Petersburg at the first signs of trouble. The protesters were instead met by a regiment of soldiers who opened fire and mounted Cossacks who charged into the crowd. Over 100 protesters were killed and many more wounded. It was a decisive day. The Tsar finally lost the respect of the ordinary people of Russia.

SOURCE 7

From the Petition to the Tsar presented by Father Gapon, 1905

Lord, we workers, our children, our wives and our old, helpless parents have come, Lord, to seek truth, justice and protection from you.

We are impoverished and oppressed, unbearable work is imposed on us, we are despised and not recognised as human beings. We are treated as slaves ...

We ask but little: to reduce the working day to eight hours and to provide a minimum wage of a **rouble** a day.

Do not refuse to help your people. Destroy the wall between yourself and your people.

SOURCE 8

A painting of Bloody Sunday by the Russian artist Ivan Vladimirov, painted soon after the event.

