

## OCR A Level History

### Theme: Russia 1894–1941

#### **Key Topics;**

- The rule of Tsar Nicholas II
- The 1917 Revolutions
- The Civil War and Lenin
- The rule of Stalin

#### **Preparation for the Course:**

The module Russia 1894-1941 is one that encompasses some of the great events of the twentieth century, including the Russian Revolution of October 1917 and the impact of the Stalinist era. It is important that some of the events in the build up to Nicholas II's reign are covered so that we can assess problems he inherited and his style of leadership. You will need a general understanding of the period 1855-94 and so we recommend that you undertake some background reading to understand the characteristics of the Russian state, including geography; the spread of nationalities; the role of autocracy and the policy of orthodoxy, autocracy and nationality; the social structure; the issue of the peasants and emancipation; the problems with reform.

Some of the vocabulary and terminology used will be unfamiliar to you so it is important to begin a glossary of key terms and definitions.

#### **Task 1 - Glossary**

Complete the glossary of key terms by researching each of the key words or phrases

#### **Task 2 –Map work on Imperial Russia**

1. Research vegetation of Imperial Russia (physical map of Imperial Russia) and annotate it or shade in the different regions on to your map. Also, research and compile a list of different nationalities and regions they lived in Russia in 1881.

#### **Task 3- What was Russia like in 1881?**

2. Read through the notes and information on the sheet entitled 'what was Russia like in 1881? Describe the situation and include subheadings or references to the geography, the nature of society and social structure, the economy, and agriculture.
3. Answer the questions at the end of this sheet.
4. Why was Russia difficult to rule in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
5. Why was Russia regarded as a 'backward state' in the nineteenth century?

#### **Task 4 – Alexander II and the Emancipation of the Serfs**

6. Read through the information sheet on Alexander II. ***Was the Emancipation of the serfs (freeing up of the serfs) a success?*** Divide your page into 2- **YES** and **NO** and use the information sheet on Alexander II to find evidence for each side. Bullet points for each is acceptable.

**PLEASE BRING ALL OF THIS WORK WITH YOU TO YOUR FIRST RUSSIAN HISTORY LESSON IN SEPTEMBER WITH GPA**