

History AQA A-level: Bridging Projects

Component 1H – Tsarist & Communist Russia, 1855-1964

Hand to Ms Burgess first lesson in September

1. Read the information about Russia in 1855, highlighting strengths & vulnerabilities.
2. For each of the structures (in the box), write down:
 - a. How they might *help* autocratic control over Russia?
 - b. What their specific weaknesses/vulnerabilities were?
 - c. How stable they were in 1855, and why?

Tsar	Orthodox Church	Imperial Council	Council of Ministers
Provincial Nobility	Army	Civil Servants	Secret Police

3. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What were the **advantages and disadvantages** in the lack of dialogue between the Tsar & the provinces?
 - b. How far was the army an asset to the Tsar?
 - c. How far do you agree that Russia's main vulnerability lay in its complicated bureaucracy?
4. Read the document about the economic and social context of Russia and write a couple of lines explaining why each of the following caused problems in Russia

	What problems was this causing for Russia?
ECONOMY – geography	
ECONOMY – serf-based economy	
ECONOMY – lack of internal demand for goods	
ECONOMY – landowning elite	
SOCIETY – divisions	
SOCIETY – lack of social mobility	
SOCIETY - taxes	

Component 2D – Religious Conflict and the Church in England, c1529–1570

Hand to Miss Gifkins first lesson in September

1. Watch the following documentary on Cardinal Wolsey, a key advisor in Henry VIII's government: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-d5tjMICal>
2. Read the article you are given on Thomas Wolsey and answer the summary questions at the end in **full sentences**
3. Read the second article on the state of the Catholic Church before the Reformation and answer the summary questions at the end of that article, again in **full sentences**

Optional extras – dip into any of the following:

History books:

Dip in & out of the following books: Carpenter R, *The Church in England and the Struggle for Supremacy, 1529-1547*, Tillbrook M, *The triumph of Elizabethan Britain, 1547-1603*, Dawson I, *The Tudor Century*, A Fletcher & D MacCulloch, *Tudor Rebellions*. I recommend getting an audiobook of an academic historian (audible is good for that, and you can have a free trial!)

Fiction:

- *The Time Before You Die: A Novel of the Reformation*, by Lucy Beckett
- *Dissolution*, by C.J. Sampson
- *Wolf Hall*, by Hillary Mantel
- *A Plague on Both Your Houses*, by Susannah Gregory
- *Brother Cadfael*, by Ellis Peters

Films:

- *D Starkey The Six Wives of Henry VIII (DVD) Channel 4*
- *A Man for All Seasons (DVD) 1966*
- *Henry VIII (DVD) 2003* • *P Gregory The Other Boleyn Girl*

Challenge:

(1.) Would the problems in Russian society make the country unstable? **Explain your answer.**

(2.) Why was Russia so economically-behind the rest of Europe? **Explain at least 3 reasons.**

(3.) "Russia was more unstable economically than it was politically." **How far do you agree?**

Optional extras – dip into any of the following:

History books

Both of these are long but available on audible so you can listen to them: Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy*; Martin Sixsmith, *Russia: The Wild East*. Orlando Figes, *Revolutionary Russia* is another good read.

Fiction:

- *The Last Days of the Romanovs* by Helen Rappaport – an engaging account of the Tsar & his family in their last 13 days.
- *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn – a vivid picture of life in one of Stalin's gulags.

Films:

- *Dr Zhivago* – a love story that crosses the revolution.
- Any of Lucy Worsley's *Empire of the Tsars* (on youtube).
- *World War Two in Colour* gives some good background to the later part of the course.