

VCAA exam questions – Russian Revolution – 2008 to 2017

This table is an easy one-page guide to every Russian Revolution question from the last ten VCAA exam papers. Studying this table will help you familiarise yourself with the structure and language of the exam, as well as the common focus of many questions (indicated in bold type). These summaries have been collated and adapted from VCAA papers. To examine the sources or exact wording of questions, please consult the original papers. This document is © Alpha History 2018.

Year	Question 1 Ext. response AOS1 10 marks	Question 2 Ext. response AOS1 10 marks	Question 3 Evidence analysis AOS2 20 marks	Question 4 Evidence analysis AOS1 20 marks	Question 5 Short essay AOS2 20 marks
2008	Impact of the October Manifesto	Formation of the Provisional Govt in February 1917	Historian's extract (Figes) on the nature of war communism	Visual, <i>Czar of all the Russias</i> , 1905, depicting Nicholas II as the Angel of Death	New society: - grievances - fulfilment of ideas - political authority
2009	Impact of Russia's defeat in the 1904 war with Japan	Impact of Lenin's April Theses , 1917	Document, Lenin introduces the New Economic Policy , 1921	Document, Miliukov speech to the Duma, 1916, criticising the tsarist government	To what extent were original ideals of the Bolsheviks altered by 1924?
2010	Impact of Russia's involvement in World War I , to Oct 1917	Impact of the actions of General Kornilov in 1917	Document, Lenin speech on gov't and the Constituent Assembly	Visual, cartoon depicting Rasputin in the royal court, 1916	To what extent were the aspirations of the Bolsheviks achieved by 1924?
2011	The functioning of the State Duma between 1906-17	The exercise of Dual Authority in Feb-Oct 1917	Visual, Cossack caught between Red Army and Whites during the Civil War , 1920	Historian's extract (Smith) on Bolshevik actions and policies in 1917	To what extent was the Bolshevik Revolution a "people's tragedy" ?
2012	The contribution of industrial workers to the revolution	The actions of the tsar between 1914 and February 1917	Document, Victor Serge extract on the New Economic Policy and reactions to it	Visual, Kochergin drawing depicting the storming of the Winter Palace , 1917	The revolution brought "only terror" to Russia's people. Do you agree?
2013	The condition of Russian peasants up to Oct 1917	Impact of Lenin's April Theses Apr-Oct 1917	Visual, 1921 propaganda depicting industrial workers & revolutionary unity	Historian's extract (Figes) on the Provisional Govt and its aims in early 1917	How well did the rev. liberate the people and improve their living conditions ?
2014	The growth of industry and its effects on Russia from 1905 to 1917	Tsarina Alexandra and her contribution to revolution from 1905 to 1917	Visual, 1920 Kogout poster showing industrial workers in Soviet Russia	Historian's extract, Rex Wade on the effects of World War I on Russian society	To what extent was a lack of opposition responsible for Bolshevik success
2015	How war and revolutionaries contributed to the development of rev.	How Soviet Order Number One contributed to the rev. in 1917	Visual, Soviet propaganda showing unity between the Red Army, workers and peasants	Historian's extract, Figes on the 1905 Revolution and the Bolsheviks	To what extent did the Bolsheviks move away from their aims between 1918-24?
New format	Question 1 Source analysis AOS1 20 marks	Question 2 Ext. response AOS2 10 marks	Question 3 Ext. response AOS2 10 marks	Question 4 Short essay AOS1 20 marks	Question 5 Source analysis AOS2 20 marks
2016	Historians (Wade and Fitzpatrick) on Petrograd Soviet and Dual Power	Explain why the CHEKA was introduced and how its power was used	How did Tenth Party Congress (1921) create challenges to the revolution	How important were soldier-sailor mutinies as a cause of the Revolution	Three sources (visual, Lynch, Figes) on the Famine of 1921
2017	Ascher and Lowe on nationalist movements as a cause of revolution	Explain why the Constituent Assembly was dismissed in 1918	Explain how the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk challenged the new regime	Direct intervention of workers and peasants was the most important cause of revolution	Three sources on Kollontai and women in the new regime