

QUESTION BANK IN SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASS-IX (TERM-I)

2

SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

CONCEPTS

THE AGE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

The French Revolution opened up the possibility of creating a dramatic change in the way in which society was structured. Not everyone in Europe, however, wanted a complete transformation. Some were 'conservatives', while others were 'liberals' or 'radicals'.

Liberals : Wanted a nation which tolerated all religions. They argued for an elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials. They were not democrats.

Radicals : Wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of a country's population. They disliked concentration of property in hands of a few, not the existence of private property.

Conservatives : They resisted change. After the revolution they started accepting change provided it was slow and had links and respected the past.

Industries and Social Change : This was the time of economic and social change. Men, women and children were pushed into factories for low wages, Liberals and radicals who were factory owners felt that workers' efforts must be encouraged.

Socialism in Europe : Socialists were against private property. They had different visions of the future. Some believed in cooperatives, some demanded that governments must encourage co-operatives.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels added that industrial society was capitalist. Marx believed that a socialist society would free the workers from capitalism. This would be a communist society.

Socialism Given Support : Workers in Germany and England began forming associations to fight for better living conditions. They set up funds for members in distress, reduction of working hours and right to vote.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

In 1914, Nicholas II ruled the Russian empire.

Economy and Society : Most of the Russian population were agriculturalist. Industries were being set up which was mostly private property of industrialists. Workers were divided into groups but they did unite to strike work when they were dissatisfied. Peasants had no respect for nobility, very unlike the French peasant. Russian peasants were the only peasant community which pooled their land and their commune divided it.

Socialism in Russia : All political parties were illegal in Russia before 1914.

The Russian Socialist Democratic Labour Party was formed in 1900. It struggled to give peasants their rights over land that belonged to nobles. As land was divided among peasants periodically and it was felt that peasants and not workers would be the main source of the revolution. But Lenin did not agree with this as he felt that peasants were not one social group. The party was divided into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

The 1905 Revolution : Russia was an autocracy. The Tsar was not subject to the parliament. Liberals wanted to end this state of affairs. They worked towards demanding a constitution during the Revolution of 1905.

Bloody Sunday : Prices of essential goods rose so quickly by 1904 that the real wages declined by 20%. During this time, four members of the Putilov Iron Works were dismissed. Action was called for. Over 110,000 workers in St. Petersburg went on strike demanding a reduction in working hours and increase in wages. This procession was attacked by the police and Cossacks. Over 100 workers were killed. Strikes took place as a reaction. People demanded a constituent assembly.

The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative Parliament or Duma. The Tsar dismissed the first Duma within 75 days and announced the election of a second Duma.

The First World War and the Russian Empire : In Russia, the war was initially very popular but later the support grew thin. Anti-German sentiments ran high. Russian armies lost badly in Germany and Austria. There were 7 million casualties and 3 million refugees in Russia.

The war also affected the industry. There was labour shortage, railway lines were shut down and small workshops were closed down. There was shortage of grain and hence of bread.

THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION IN PETROGRAD

Events

- In the winter of 1917, Petrograd was grim. There was food shortage in the workers' quarters.
- 22 February : a lockout took place at a factory. Workers of 50 other factories joined in sympathy. Women also led and participated in the strikes. This came to be called the International Women's Day.
- The government imposed a curfew as the quarters of the fashionable area and official buildings were surrounded by workers.
- On the 24th and 25th, the government called out the cavalry and police to keep an eye on them.
- On 25th February, the government suspended the Duma and politicians spoke against this measure. The people were out with force once again.
- On 27th, the police headquarters were ransacked.
- Cavalry was called out again.
- An officer was shot at the barracks of a regiment and other regiments mutinied, voting to join the striking workers gathered to form a soviet or council. This was the Petrograd Soviet.
- A delegation went to meet the Tsar, military commanders advised him to abdicate.
- The Tsar abdicated on 2nd March.
- A Provincial Government was formed by the Soviet and Duma leaders to run the country.

The people involved were the parliamentarians, workers, women workers, soldiers and military commanders.

Effects

- Restrictions on public meetings and associations were removed.
- Soviets were set up everywhere.
- In individual areas factory committees were formed which began questioning the way industrialists ran their factories.

- Soldiers' committees were formed in the army.
- The provisional government saw its power declining and Bolshevik influence grow. It decided to take stern measures against the spreading discontent.
- It resisted attempts by workers to run factories and arrested leaders.
- Peasants and the socialist revolutionary leaders pressed for a redistribution of land. Land committees were formed and peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

OCTOBER REVOLUTION

- 16th October 1917 — Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet to organise seizure.
- Uprising began on 24th October. Prime Minister Kerenskii left the city to summon troops.
- Military men loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers. Pro-government troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the Winter Palace.
- In response Military Revolutionary Committee ordered to seize government offices and arrest the ministers.
- The 'Aurora' ship shelled the Winter Palace. Other ships took over strategic points.
- By night the city had been taken over and ministers had surrendered.
- All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd approved the Bolshevik action.
- Heavy fighting in Moscow — by December, the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow - Petrograd area.

The people involved were Lenin, the Bolsheviks, troops (pro-government).

Effects

- Most industry and banks were nationalised in November 1917.
- Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
- Use of old titles was banned.
- New uniforms were designed for the army and officials.
- Russia became a one party state.
- Trade unions were kept under party control.
- A process of centralised planning was introduced. This led to economic growth.
- Industrial production increased.
- An extended schooling system developed.
- Collectivisation of farms started.

The Civil War — When the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution, the Russian army began to break up. Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising. They were supported by French, American, British and Japanese troops. All these fought a war with the Bolsheviks.

Making a Socialist Society — The Bolsheviks kept industries and banks nationalised during the civil war. A process of centralised planning was introduced. Rapid construction and industrialisation started. An extended schooling system developed.

Stalin and Collective Farming — Stalin believed that rich peasants and traders stocked supplies

to create shortage of grains. Hence, collectivisation was the need of the hour. This system would also help to modernise farms. Those farmers who resisted collectivisation were punished, deported or exiled.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

By the 1950s, it was recognised in the country and outside that everything was not in keeping with the ideals of the Russian revolution. Though its industries and agriculture had developed and the poor were being fed, the essential freedom to its citizens was being denied. However, it was recognised that social ideals still enjoyed respect among the Russians. But in each country the ideas of socialism were rethought in a variety of different ways.

I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

Q.1. What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Nicholas II ruled Russia and its empire in 1914. In addition to the territory around Moscow, the Russian empire included current-day Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. It also included today's Central Asian states, as well as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The majority religion was Russian Orthodox Christianity — which had grown out of the Greek Orthodox Church — but the empire also included Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.

In the beginning of the 20th century about 85% of the Russian empire's population were agriculturalist. This proportion was higher than in most European countries. In the empire the cultivator produced for the market as well as for their own needs and Russia was a major exporter of grain.

Industries were found in pockets. Many factories had been set up, railway lines expanded. The production of coal doubled and that of iron and steel quadrupled. Foreign investment increased. Craftsmen undertook much of the work. Industries were privately owned. Large factories were supervised by factory inspectors who could not always monitor rules and prevent them from being broken. Workers were a divided social group — some came from villages, while others from towns. Workers were also divided according to their skills.

Wherever these workers disagreed with employers about dismissals or work conditions they united and stopped work. Such strikes took place frequently, especially in the textile industry. Land was owned by the nobility, the crown and the Orthodox Church. Peasants cultivated most of the land. They were also divided into social groups. But except in a few cases they had no respect for nobility. They wanted land from the nobles. Frequently, they refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords.

Russian peasants also pooled their land together periodically and their commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individuals families.

Russia was an autocracy. The Tsar was not subject to parliament. Liberals in Russia campaigned to end this state of affairs.

The year 1904 was a particularly bad one for Russian workers. Prices of essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20%. The membership of workers associations rose dramatically.

Q.2. In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?

Ans. The working population in Russia was different from other countries in Europe before 1917. In the beginning of the twentieth century the vast majority of Russia's people were agriculturalists. This proportion was higher than in most European countries. For instance, in France and Germany the proportion was between 40% and 50%. In the empire, cultivators produced for the markets as well as for their own needs and Russia was a major exporter of grain. Workers were a divided social group. They were divided by skill. Some workers formed associations to help members in times of unemployment or financial hardship but such associations were few. Workers also did unite to strike work or stop work when they were dissatisfied with employers about work conditions or dismissals. Peasants in Russia had no respect for the nobility. Nobles got their power and position through the Tsar and not through local popularity. The Russian peasants demanded that the land of the nobles be given to them. They even murdered landlords and refused to pay rent. The Russian peasants were different in another way. They pooled their land together periodically and their commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individuals families.

Q.3. Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. The First World War was a war that was fought outside Europe as well as in Europe. In Russia, the war was initially popular and people rallied around Tsar Nicholas II. As the war continued, the tsar refused to consult the main parties in the Duma. Support from all sides became thin. Anti-German sentiments became high and St. Petersburg (which was a German name) was renamed as Petrograd. The Tsarina Alexandra's German origins and poor advisors, especially a monk called Rasputin, made the autocracy unpopular. The defeats in the war were shocking and demoralising. Russian armies lost badly. There were about 7 million casualties by 1917 and almost 3 million refugees. The situation discredited the government and the Tsar. The war also had a severe impact on industry and contributed to the food shortage in the country. The people were rioting as bread and flour became scarce. There was resentment all over the country. The Imperial Russian army was the largest armed force in the world. It came to be known as the 'Russian steamroller'. When this army shifted its loyalty and began supporting the revolutionaries, Tsarist power collapsed.

Q.4. Make two lists: one with the main events and effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what the impact of each was on Soviet history.

Ans. February Revolution

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- The government imposed a curfew as the quarters of the fashionable area and official buildings were surrounded by workers.
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- On the 25th February, the government suspended the Duma and politicians spoke against this measure. The people were out with force once again.
- On the 27th, the police headquarters were ransacked.
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Q.3. The people who wanted to put an immediate end to the existing governments in Europe (in 1815) were called :

- (a) nationalists (b) liberals (c) revolutionaries (d) radicals

Ans. (c)

Q.4. Karl Marx wanted workers to overthrow :

- (a) capitalism (b) rule of private property
(c) accumulation of profits by capitalists (d) radicals

Ans. (a)

Q.5. To coordinate the efforts of socialists all over Europe, an international body was formed in Europe (in 1889) called the :

- (a) Second International (b) Commune
(c) Labour Party (d) Social Democratic Party

Ans. (a)

Q.6. Which of these statements is/are correct about Europe after the French Revolution?

- (a) Suddenly it seemed possible to change the aristocratic society of the 18th century.
(b) However not everyone wanted a complete transformation of society.
(c) Some wanted gradual shift, while others wanted complete change of society.
(d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.7. The majority religion of Russia was _____ but the empire also included _____

- (a) Russian Orthodox Church, grown out of Greek Orthodox Church
(b) Russian Orthodox Church
(c) Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists
(d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d)

Q.8. According to the views held by the people of Europe regarding social change, they came to be called

- (a) liberals (b) radicals (c) conservatives (d) all the above

Ans. (d)

Q.9. Which of the following factors made autocracy unpopular in Russia?

- (a) The German origin of the Tsarina Alexandra
(b) Poor advisors like the Monk Rasputin
(c) The huge cost of fighting in the World War I
(d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q.10. Which of the statements given about the Socialist Revolutionary Party is not true?

- (a) The Socialist Revolutionary Party was formed by socialists active in the countryside
(b) They struggled for peasants' rights and demanded that land from nobles be transferred to them
(c) They were one united group fighting for their rights
(d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (c)

Q.11. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the Socialists till 1914?

- (a) They helped various associations to win seats in the parliaments in Europe
- (b) Socialists, supported by strong figures in parliamentary politics, shaped and influenced legislation
- (c) They succeeded in forming a government in Europe
- (d) Governments continued to be run by conservatives, liberals and radicals

Ans. (b)

Q.12. Which of the following statement (s) is/are correct regarding what the 'liberals' wanted?

- (a) Not to tolerate all the religions
- (b) To oppose uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers
- (c) Universal adult franchise
- (d) Government appointed by the king

Ans. (b)

Q.13. How can you say that the 'liberals' were not 'democrats'?

- (a) They did not believe in universal adult franchise
- (b) They felt that only men of property should have a right to vote
- (c) Women should not have right to vote
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.14. What were the ideas of 'conservatives' regarding social change in the 19th century?

- (a) They accepted that some change was required
- (b) They believed that change should be done by a slow process
- (c) They were completely opposed to any such change
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q.15. Which of the following statements is not correct about the 'radicals'?

- (a) They supported women's right to vote
- (b) They opposed the privileges of great landowners
- (c) They were completely against the existence of private property
- (d) They wanted a government based on the majority of a country's population

Ans. (c)

Q.16. What kind of developments took place as a result of new political trends in Europe?

- (a) Industrial Revolution occurred
- (b) New cities came up
- (c) Railways expanded
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.17. In order to develop societies, liberals and radicals believed

- (a) in the value of individual effort, labour and enterprise
- (b) in the privileges of the old aristocracy
- (c) that those who had capital should work with restraint
- (d) all the above

Ans. (a)

Q.18. Why did some liberals and radicals become revolutionaries in France, Italy, Russia etc.?

- (a) They wanted to concentrate powers in their own hands
- (b) They wanted to overthrow the existing monarchs
- (c) They were against equal rights
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q.19. By the mid-19th century in Europe, the idea which attracted widespread attention on the restructuring of society was

- (a) Capitalism
- (b) Socialism
- (c) Dictatorship
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q.20. Who conspired in Italy to bring about a revolution?

- (a) Bismarck
- (b) Karl Marx
- (c) Guiseppe Mazzini
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.21. Which of the following is true about the peasants of Russia?

- (a) Except in a few cases, they had no respect for the nobility
- (b) Peasants wanted the land of the nobles to be given to them
- (c) Frequently they refused to pay rent and even murdered the landlords
- (d) All the above

Ans. (b)

Q.22. When was the Socialist Revolutionary Party formed in Russia?

- (a) 1898
- (b) 1900
- (c) 1905
- (d) 1910

Ans. (b)

Q.23. What were the demands made by the workers in St. Petersburg who went on a strike?

- (a) Reduction of working time to eight hours
- (b) Increase in wages
- (c) Improvement in working conditions
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.24. The procession of workers to the Winter Palace was attacked by the police killing 100 workers. This incident is called

- (a) Black Sunday
- (b) Bloody Sunday
- (c) Rebellious Sunday
- (d) Unlucky Sunday

Ans. (b)

Q.25. What was 'Duma'?

- (a) Parliament
- (b) Court
- (c) Trade Union
- (d) Group of Nobles

Ans. (a)

Q.26. Why did the Tsar dismiss the first Duma within 75 days of its election?

- (a) Because it was incapable of taking good decisions
- (b) Because the Tsar did not want anyone to question his authority
- (c) The term of first Duma was of 75 days only
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

- Q.27. In the World War I, which started in 1914, Russia fought against**
- (a) Britain and France
 - (b) Germany and Austria
 - (c) America
 - (d) All the above

Ans. (b)

- Q.28. Why did the support of people to the Tsar for war gradually started decreasing?**
- (a) Because of rising prices
 - (b) Army was sick and tired of war
 - (c) Because Tsar Nicholas II refused to consult the main parties in Duma
 - (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

- Q.29. Why was St. Petersburg, the German name of a Russian city, renamed as Petrograd?**
- (a) There were high anti-German sentiments in Russia
 - (b) People disliked the saint after whom the city's name was kept
 - (c) The name 'Petrograd' was chosen by the Tsarina
 - (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)

- Q.30. What was the position of Russia's army in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916?**
- (a) Russian army brought a lot of destruction in Germany and Austria.
 - (b) It killed a large member of people and was victorious
 - (c) Russian army lost badly
 - (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

- Q.31. Which of the following statements is/are correct?**
- (a) By 1916, railway lines in Russia began to break down
 - (b) There were labour shortages and small workshops producing essentials were shut down
 - (c) Large supplies of grain were sent to feed the army
 - (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

- Q.32. Why did a lockout take place at a factory on the right bank of the River Neva on 22 February, 1917?**
- (a) It was extremely cold for the workers to work, because of frost and heavy snow
 - (b) The workers were being forced to join the army
 - (c) Food shortages were deeply felt in the workers' quarters situated on the left bank of the River Neva
 - (d) Both (a) and (c)

Ans. (d)

- Q.33. When did the government suspend the Duma?**
- (a) 25 February, 1917
 - (b) 26 February, 1917
 - (c) 27 February, 1917
 - (d) 28 February, 1917

Ans. (a)

Q.34. In order to control the situation, the government called the cavalry. How did the cavalry react?

- (a) The cavalry killed a large number of workers
- (b) Most of the cavalry did not turn up due to extreme cold
- (c) The cavalry refused to fire on the demonstrators
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.35. On 27th February 1917, soldiers and striking workers gathered to form a council called

- (a) Soviet Council
- (b) Petrograd Soviet
- (c) Moscow Union
- (d) Russian Council

Ans. (b)

Q.36. When did the Tsar abdicate the throne?

- (a) 28 February, 1917
- (b) 2 March, 1917
- (c) 10 April, 1917
- (d) 15 May, 1918

Ans. (b)

Q.37. Which of the following events took place after the Tsar abdicated on 2nd March?

- (a) Provisional government was formed
- (b) It was decided to set up a Constituent Assembly
- (c) Constituent Assembly was formed by revolutionaries only
- (d) Both A and B

Ans. (d)

Q.38. When did Lenin return to Russia from his exile?

- (a) March 1917
- (b) April 1917
- (c) August 1917
- (d) July 1918

Ans. (b)

Q.39. Which of these demands is/are referred to as Lenin's 'April Theses'?

- (a) World War I should be brought to an end
- (b) Land should be transferred to the peasants
- (c) Banks should be nationalised
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.40. Why were most of the Bolshevik Party members initially surprised by 'April Theses'?

- (a) They wanted continuation of World War I
- (b) They thought that time was not ripe for a socialist revolution
- (c) Government needed to be supported at this time
- (d) all the above

Ans. (d)

Q.41. In the context of Russia who launched the slogan-“Peace, Land and Bread”?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Chernov
- (b) Rasputin
- (c) Lenin
- (d) Trotsky

Ans. (c)

Q.42. In the context of Russia, which group was the supporter of women's 'Suffragette Movements'?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Liberals
- (b) Radicals
- (c) Conservatives
- (d) None of these

Ans. (b)

- Q.43. Who led the Bolshevik group in Russia during Russian Revolution ? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) Karl Marx (b) Friedrich Engels (c) Vladimir Lenin (d) Trotsky
Ans. (c)
- Q.44. Who started 'Collectivisation Programme' in Russia ? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) Lenin (b) Karl Marx (c) Rasputin (d) Stalin
Ans. (d)
- Q.45. In the context of Russia, what was 'KULAK' ? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) A collective Farm (b) A Russian Church
 (c) Well-to-do Peasants (d) Landless Labourers
Ans. (c)
- Q.46. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in : [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) 1898 by Socialists (b) 1899 by Communists
 (c) 1899 by Lenin (d) 1899 by Middle Class
Ans. (a)
- Q.47. Which one of the following refers to the secret police of Russia? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) Cheka (b) Gestapo (c) Security Police (d) F.B.I.
Ans. (a)
- Q.48. Socialists took over the government in Russia through the? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) October Revolution in 1917 (b) November Revolution in 1918
 (c) December Revolution in 1919 (d) February Revolution in 1920
Ans. (a)
- Q.49. Which one of the following refers to the meaning of the word 'Soviet'? [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) An Autonomous organisation of Russia (b) Security police
 (c) Duma (d) A revolutionary organisation
Ans. (d)
- Q.50. After 1905, most committees and trade unions were : [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) declared illegal (b) declared legal (c) active (d) none of the above
Ans. (a)
- Q.51. After the abdication of Tsar Nicolas II in 1917, Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a : [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) National Government to run the country (b) Provisional Government to run the country
 (c) Local Government to run the country (d) Central Government to run the country
Ans. (b)
- Q.52. At the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of Russian people worked in the : [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) Industrial sector (b) Agricultural sector (c) Mining sector (d) Transport sector
Ans. (b)
- Q.53. Russian peasants were different from other European peasants because : [2010 (T-1)]**
 (a) They had no respect for the nobility (b) They pooled their land together
 (c) They were not different (d) both (a) and (b)
Ans. (d)

Q.54. Which one of the following demands was not included in “April Thesis” of Lenin? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) End of World War I (b) Formation of Duma
(c) Transfer of land to peasants (d) Nationalisation of banks

Ans. (b)

Q.55. The Jadidists of Russia aimed that: [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Socialist should rule Russia (b) Democrats should rule Russia
(c) Modernised Muslims should rule Russia (d) Liberal Christians should rule Russia

Ans. (c)

Q.56. In the Russian Civil War the Bolsheviks and the socialist revolutionaries were represented by which of the following colours? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Whites and Reds (b) Greens and Whites (c) Reds and Greens (d) None of these

Ans. (c)

Q.57. Which religion was followed by most of the people of Russia? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Catholics (b) Protestants
(c) Russian Orthodox Christianity (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.58. The commune of farmers was known as : [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Tsar (b) Duma (c) Mir (d) Cossacks

Ans. (c)

Q.59. Who led the procession of workers to the event ‘Bloody Sunday’ in Russia ? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Lenin (b) Stalin (c) Kerenski (d) Father Gapon

Ans. (d)

Q.60. Who among the following was the advisor of Tsarina Alexandra? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Rasputin (b) Stalin (c) Father Gapon (d) Lenin

Ans. (a)

C. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS [3 MARKS]

Q.1. Differentiate between the ideas of the liberals and radicals in Europe (take the time period as after the French Revolution). (CBSE 2010)

Ans. The liberals did not believe in universal franchise. In contrast, radicals wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of a country’s population. Liberals felt men of prosperity mainly should have the vote. They did not want the vote for women. On the other hand the radicals supported women’s suffragette movements and opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners. They were not against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

Q.2. Why do we say that liberals during this time could not be called ‘democrats’?

Ans. The liberals opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers and wanted to safeguard the rights of individuals against governments. They also argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials. But, however, they could not be called democrats. They did

not believe in universal adult franchise and also did not want the vote for women. They felt right to vote should only be for men of property.

Q.3. How should society, according to liberals and radicals, develop?

Ans. Liberals and radicals were often property owners and employers. Having acquired wealth through industrial ventures and trade, they firmly believed that such efforts should be encouraged — that its profits would be reaped if the work force in the economy was healthy and citizen were educated. They put forth that societies could develop if the poor could labour, freedom of individuals was ensured and those with capital could operate without restraint.

Q.4. Why were socialists against private property and saw it as the root of all social ills?

Ans. The people who propagated socialism said that individuals who owned property, did provide employment to many people but they were concerned with personal gains only and did not bother about the welfare of the people. They felt that if society controlled property, more attention would be paid to collective social interests.

Q.5. Describe the incident known as ‘Bloody Sunday’. (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Over 110,000 workers in St. Petersburg went on strike in 1905, demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions. When this procession reached the Winter Palace it was attacked by the police and the Cossacks. Over 100 workers were killed and about 300 wounded. This incident, known as Bloody Sunday, started a series of events that became known as the 1905 Revolution.

Q.6. What effect did the war have on the industry of Russia. (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Russian industries were very few in number and the country was cut off from other suppliers of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea. Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than elsewhere in Europe. By 1916 railway lines began to break down. Able bodied men were called up to the war. As a result, there were labour shortages and small workshops producing essential commodities were shut down.

Q.7. Why was the decision to collectivise farms taken?

Ans. It was thought that rich peasants and traders in the countryside were holding stocks in the hope of higher prices. This created a shortage. As shortage continued, the decision was taken to collectivise farms as Lenin felt that the small size of farms caused the shortage. They also felt that these small size farms could not be modernised. They felt that the need of the hour was to develop modern farms and run them along industrial lines with machinery.

Q.8. “By the 1950s it was acknowledged within the country that the style of government in the USSR was not in keeping with the ideals of the Russian Revolution.” Why was this said?

Ans. By the 1950s it was acknowledged within the country that the style of government in the USSR was not in keeping with the ideals of the Russia Revolution. Russia, a backward country, had become a great power. Its industries and agriculture had developed and the poor were being fed. But it had denied the essential freedoms to its citizens and carried out its developmental projects through repressive policies.

Q.9. What was the role of the Tsar in the peasant revolt of 1905? Did the revolt fail? Discuss briefly.

Ans. During the 1905 Revolution, the Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative parliament or Duma. The Tsar dismissed it within 75 days and re-elected.

Second Duma : within 3 months. He did not want any questioning of his authority or any reduction in his power. He changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians. Yes, it failed.

Q.10. Discuss the civil war that took place in Russia after the October Revolution and its consequences.

Ans. When the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution the Russian army began to break up. Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters or autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising. They were supported by the French, American, British and Japanese troops. The Bolsheviks kept industries and banks nationalised during the civil war. A process of centralised planning was introduced. Rapid construction and industrialisation started. An extended schooling system developed. Stalin introduced collectivisation of the farms so that no shortage of grain should occur. The Bolsheviks controlled most of the farmer of Russian Empire.

Q.11. What was the basic principle of the Marxist theory? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Marx believed that the condition of workers could not improve as long as profit was accumulated by private capitalists. Workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property. Workers must construct a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society and a Communist Party was the natural society of the future.

Q.12. Discuss briefly the Five Years Plans.

Ans. A process of centralised planning was introduced. Officials assessed how the economy could work and set targets for a five-year period, on this basis they made the five-year plans. The government fixed all prices to promote industrial growth during the first two plans (1927-32 and 1933-38) centralised planning led to economic growth.

Q.13. Explain why did the Bolsheviks consider the Russian revolution as only the “first stage” of the revolution.

Ans. The Bolsheviks considered the Russian revolution as only the ‘first stage’ of revolution because merely seizing power was not their ultimate aim. They aimed at an egalitarian society. The next stage of the revolution included redistribution of land, nationalisation of industries and banks, collective farming. The power of the pro-Tsarist aristocracy had to be crushed. Rich peasants had to be forced to redistribute land. Their ultimate aim was to establish the rule of the proletariat – the peasants and workers.

Q.14. What made the Tsar the ‘Autocrat of all the Russians’? Describe the steps he took just before the Russian Revolution.

Ans. The Tsar was not subject to parliament. Liberals in Russia campaigned to end this state of affairs. All political parties were illegal in Russia before 1914. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party founded in 1898 operated as an illegal organisation. Russia under Tsar Nicholas II was an autocracy.

Q.15. Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Anti-German sentiments were high. St. Petersburg (a German name) was renamed Petrograd. Tsarina Alexandra’s German origin and poor advisors made the autocracy unpopular. The defeats in the World War I were shocking – seven million casualties and three million refugees by 1917. This situation discredited the government and the Tsar. There was shortage of food, people were rioting as bread and flour became scarce. The large Russian army shifted its

loyalty and began supporting the revolutionaries, Tsarist power collapsed.

Q.16. What were the views of socialists on private property ? Name the international body set up to coordinate their efforts? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Refer to Question 1, Long Answer Questions.

Q.17. What was the impact of the First World War on the Russian economy?

Ans. Refer to Question 6, Long Answer Questions.

The war caused large supplies of grain to be sent to feed the army. For the people in the cities, bread and flour became scarce. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common. The workers in Leningrad were the worst sufferers as a severe winter added to their miserable conditions. The economic crisis led to Revolutions.

Q.18. Mention the important steps taken by Lenin to improve the agriculture and economy of Russia. (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Lenin nationalised most industries and banks. He ordered land redistribution. He permitted peasants to cultivate the land that had been socialised. Centralised planning was introduced. Five year plans were made. The government fixed all prices during the first two year "plans". There was increased production of oil, coal and steel. An extended schooling system developed, factory workers and peasants could go to universities. Communes were set up, members ate in a communal dining hall and income was divided according to the principles of "cooperative commission".

Q.19. Describe the political condition in Russia prior to the October revolution of 1917. (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Refer to Question 3, NCERT Questions.

Q.20. What was Lenin's April Theses? Why were some members of the Bolshevik Party surprised by the April Theses? What made them change their attitude? (CBSE 2010)
What were the main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries?

Ans. The three demands of Vladimir Lenin, after his return to Russia in April 1917 were :

- (i) He and the Bolsheviks had opposed the war since 1914. He felt in 1917 that it should be brought to a close.
 - (ii) Land should be transferred to the peasants.
 - (iii) The banks should be nationalised and the party should be renamed "Communist Party".
- These three demands were called Lenin's "April Theses".

Most of the members of the Bolshevik Party were initially surprised as they thought the time was not yet ripe for a socialist revolution and the provisional government needed to be supported. The developments of the subsequent months made the party change its attitude. The workers' movement spread, trade unions grew in number, the power of the provisional government grew weaker, factories were repressed. In the countryside peasants pressed for redistribution of land and encouraged by socialist revolution's ideas, peasants seized land between July and September 1917. This led to the change of view and the Bolsheviks decided to seize power.

Q.21. Why did the Kerensky government become unpopular in Russia? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. The Kerensky government tried to suppress the workers' movement and the Bolshevik influence. It suppressed all demonstrations staged by Bolsheviks in July 1917. Many Bolsheviks had to go into hiding. Peasants in the countryside had started demanding redistribution.

tribution of land. Kerensky was suspected of setting up a dictatorship and Lenin persuaded Petrograd Soviet and Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. Kerensky had to leave the city to summon troops.

Q.22. Mention any two changes introduced by Stalin in the Russian economy. How did Stalin deal with the critics? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Stalin introduced the collectivisation. All peasants had to cultivate collective farms (Kolkhoz) from 1929. The profit was shared by the peasants working on the land.

Before collectivisation, Stalin took steps to eliminate 'Kulaks' – the well to do peasants. He took away land from them and established large state controlled farms.

Stalin severely punished the critics of his programme. Many were deported and exiled. He charged his critics with conspiracy against socialism. By 1939, 2 million were put in prisons or labour camps. A large number were forced to make false statements under torture and were executed. Several among them were talented professionals.

Q.23. What steps were taken to improve the condition of factory workers and peasants in Russia after the civil war? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Five year plans were made to promote industrial growth. Industrial production was increased by 100 percent in oil, coal and steel. New factories were built. In Magnitogorsk a new steel plant was built in three years. Extended schooling system developed, creches were established in factories for the children of women workers, cheap public health care was provided. Model living quarters were built up for workers.

Q.24. How did the destruction of Russian industries after the First World War become one of the causes of resentment of people? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. The First World War had a devastating impact on industries. Russia's own industries were few in number and the country was cut off from other supplies of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea. Industrial equipments disintegrated rapidly. By 1916, railway lines began to break down. Able bodied men were called up to the war. As a result, workshops producing essentials were shut down. Huge supplies of grain were sent to feed the army. For the people in cities, bread and flour became scarce. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.

Q.25. Discuss the relationship between peasants and nobles in Russia during early 19th century. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Peasants cultivated most of the land. But the nobility, the crown and the church owned large properties. Except in few cases peasants had no respect for the nobility. Peasants wanted the land of the nobles to be distributed to them.

Frequently peasants refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords. In 1902, such events occurred on a large scale in South Russia. In 1905 such incidents took place all over Russia.

Q.26. Describe the three reforms introduced in Russia by Czar Nicholas II after the Revolution? [2010 (T-1)]

- Ans.**
- (i) The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative Parliament or Duma.
 - (ii) Most committees and unions were declared illegal. Severe restrictions were placed on political activity.
 - (iii) The Tsar dismissed the first Duma within 75 days and the re-elected second Duma within

three months. He did not want any reduction in his power. He changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians. Liberals and revolutionaries were kept out.

Q.27. What were the different notions of Liberals, Radicals and Conservatives regarding formation of the new Government in Russia? Discuss. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Liberals opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers. They wanted to safeguard the rights of individuals against governments. They argued for a representative elected parliamentary government with an independent judiciary.

Radicals wanted a government based on the majority of a country's population. Unlike liberals, they opposed the privileges of great land owners and wealthy factory owners. They disliked the idea of concentration of property in the hands of a few.

Conservatives were opposed to radicals and liberals. They believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.

Q.28. What were the three main changes observed after October Revolution in Russia? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) Most industries and banks were nationalised in November 1917. The government took over their ownership and management.

(ii) Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.

(iii) Large houses in cities were partitioned according to family requirements. Old titles of aristocracy were banned. New uniforms were designed for the army and officials.

Q.29. Why socialists were against private property? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Socialists saw private property as the root of all social ills of the time. Individuals owned the property that gave employment but the proprietors were concerned only with personal gain and not with the welfare of those who made the property productive. So, according to them, if society as a whole rather than single individuals controlled property, more attention would be paid to collective social interests.

Q.30. Why socialists were against private property? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. The possibility of a workers' state fired people's imagination across the world. In many countries, communist parties were formed, for example, the Communist Party of Great Britain. The Bolsheviks encouraged colonial peoples to follow their experiment. Many non-Russians outside USSR participated in the Conference of the Peoples of the East (1920) and the Bolsheviks founded Comintern. Some received educations in the USSR's Communist University of the Workers of the East. By the beginning of the second World War, the USSR had given socialism a global face and world stature.

Q.31. Mention the demands of the workers who went on strike at St. Petersburg in 1904. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. When four members of the Assembly of Russian Workers were dismissed, there was a call for industrial action. Over the next few days over 110,000 workers in St. Petersburg went on strike. Workers demanded a reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions.

D. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS [4 MARKS]

Q.1. Explain how a society, according to socialists, can operate without property. What would be the basis of socialist society? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Socialists had different visions of the future. Some such as Robert Owen, a leading English manufacturer, sought to build a co-operative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA). Other socialists felt that co-operatives could not be built on a wide scale only through individual initiative. They wanted that governments must encourage co-operatives and replace capitalist enterprise. This was propagated by Louis Blanc in France. They said that co-operatives were to be associations of people who produced goods together and divided the profits according to the work done by members.

More ideas were added to this body of arguments. These ideas were added by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels. Marx argued that industrial society was capitalist. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories. The profit which came to them through these factories was produced by the workers.

The workers contributed to the profits but did not gain anything. Their condition could improve only if the workers freed themselves from capitalists exploitation. For this the workers needed to construct a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society. The second International was the body termed to co-ordinate their efforts.

Q.2. What developments took place in Europe in support of socialism?

Ans. By the 1870s the socialists formed an international body, namely the Second International to coordinate their efforts. Associations were formed by workers in Germany and England to fight for better living and working conditions. To help members in times of distress, they set up funds and demanded a reduction in working hours and the right to vote. In Germany, these associations worked closely with the Social Democratic Party and helped it win parliamentary seats. By 1905 socialists and trade unionists formed a Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France.

Q.3. Discuss Stalin's collectivisation programme. (CBSE 2010)

OR

What was Collectivisation? How did stalin use this programme? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Stalin felt that collectivisation would definitely solve the problem of shortage. From 1929 the Party forced the peasants to cultivate in collective farms (Kolkhoz). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of collective farms. Peasants worked on the land and the Kolkhoz profit was shared. Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock. Between 1929 and 1931 the number of cattle fell by 1/3. Those who resisted collectivisation were severely punished. Many were exiled and deported. The peasants argued that they were not rich and were not against socialism but they opposed collectivisation for a variety of reasons. Some independent cultivation was allowed by Stalin's government but such cultivators were treated unsympathetically. In spite of all these measures production did not increase immediately.

Q.4. How did socialism spread in Europe?

Ans. The International Workingmen's Association — the First International—was formed in 1864. With its formation "Socialism stepped on the stage of history as a World Movement". Its slogan was "proletarians of all countries unite". It worked for the emancipation of the workers

and laid stress on the “abolition of all class rule”. It continued up to 1872. In 1889, the socialists formed the Second International to coordinate their efforts. Associations were formed by workers in Germany and England for better living and working conditions. They set up funds to help members in times of distress. By 1905, socialists and trade unionists formed a Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France.

Q.5. Discuss the causes that led to the Revolution of 1917.

OR

Describe the circumstances which were responsible for Russian Revolution.[2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Russian peasantry was in a miserable condition. Feudalism and serfdom prevailed till 1861. The capitalist industrialists exploited the workers by making them work 12-14 hours, for low wages. The despotic rule of the Tsar Nicholas II. The bureaucracy was corrupt, rigid and inefficient. The common people were fed up with the absolute rule of the Tsar. Karl Marx propagated scientific socialism. Liberal ideas of the west through literature entered Russia plus Tolstoy and other thinkers infused revolutionary thoughts in the youth.

Q.6. Comment on the role of Vladimir Lenin in the revolution and his contribution to the economic policy. (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Vladimir Lenin played an important part in the Russian Revolution of 1917. He led the revolutionaries after the fall of the Tsar Under Lenin’s leadership, the Bolshevik Party put forward clear policies to end the war, transfer land to the peasants and advance the slogan ‘All power to the Soviets’. He was of the opinion that no genuine democracy could be established unless all the non-Russians were given equal rights. These were the real objectives of the Russian Revolution and he fulfilled all these objectives. That is why Lenin’s name has become inseparable from the Russian Revolution.

Q.7. Discuss the role and importance of Lenin in the history of the USSR.

OR

Examine the role of Lenin in Russian Revolution. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. In April 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from the exile. He said it was time for the Soviets to take over power. He declared that the war be brought to a close, land be transferred to peasants, banks be nationalised. These three demands were Lenin’s ‘April Theses’. He argued that Bolshevik Party be renamed the Communist Party. In January 1918, Lenin dismissed the Constituent Assembly. There was only one party — the All Russian Congress of Soviets. It also became the Parliament of the country. The secret police OGPU and NKVD punished those who criticised the Bolsheviks. By 1920, the Bolsheviks controlled most of the former empire. The Bolsheviks created the USSR from the Russian Empire in December 1922.

Q.8. What were the immediate consequences of the Russian Revolution? (CBSE 2010)

OR

What were the impacts of the Russian Revolution on Russia? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Most industries and banks were nationalised in November 1917. This meant the government took over the ownership and management. Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility. In cities, Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements. They banned the use of old title of aristocracy. To assert the change, new uniforms were designed for the army and the officials. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party.

Q.9. How did communism in Russia influence capitalist societies?

Ans. Karl Marx argued that industrial society was capitalist. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories. The profit of capitalists was produced by workers. Workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property. A radically socialist society had to be constructed. A communist society was the natural society of the future. By 1870s, socialist ideas spread through Europe.

Q.10. What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905?

Ans. Social conditions : People of different social status, classes, religions and diverse nationalities were there. Imposition of Russian language was made to belittle the cultures of these people. Main groups of Russian population were farmers, workers, landowners, capitalists, industrialists and traders.

Economic conditions : 85 percent of Russians were agriculturists. Agriculture provided employment to a vast population. Cultivators produced food for market as well as their own needs

Political conditions : Nobles got their power and position through their services to the Tsar, not through local popularity. This was unlike France where peasants respected nobles and fought for them. In Russia, peasants wanted the land of the nobles, they refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords.

Q.11. In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?

Ans. Workers were a divided social group in Russia. Some had strong links with villages, some had settled in cities. Workers were divided by skill. Metal workers considered themselves aristocrats. Despite division they did unite to strike work when they disagreed with employers. Like workers, peasants were also divided. But they had no respect for the nobility. They wanted the land of the nobles. They refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords.

Q.12. What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution? (CBSE 2010)

Ans. Most industry and banks were nationalised. This meant that the government took over the ownership and management. Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility. In cities, Bolsheviks enforced partition of large houses according to family requirements. Use of old aristocratic titles were banned. New uniforms were designed for the army and the officials. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party. Russia became a one-party state. The secret police OGPU and NKVP punished those who criticised Bolsheviks.

Q.13. Comment on the global influence of the Russian Revolution. (CBSE 2010)

OR

What were the international consequences of the Russian Revolution? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Existing socialist parties in Europe did not wholly approve of the way the Bolsheviks took power and kept it. Still the possibility of a workers' state fired their imagination across the world. In many countries communist parties were formed. Bolsheviks encouraged colonial people to follow their example. Many non-Russians received education in the USSR's University of the Peoples of the East. By the time the Second World War broke out, the USSR had given socialism a global face and world stature.

Q.14. How did Russia's participation in the World War cause the fall of the Tsar? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. The war was initially popular and people rallied around Tsar Nicholas II. But as the war continued, support became thin and Tsar's popularity declined. Anti-German sentiments became high. The Tsarina Alexandra's German origins and poor advisers, especially a monk called Rasputin, made the autocracy unpopular. Defeats were shocking and demoralising. Russia's armies lost badly in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916. There were over 7 million casualties by 1917. The destruction of crops and buildings led to over 3 million refugees in Russia. The situation discredited the government and the Tsar.

The war also had a severe impact on industry. Many of them producing essential goods were shut down. Able bodied men were called up to the war. Large supplies of grains were sent to feed the army. For the people in the cities, bread and flour became scarce. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.

Q.15. What conditions led to the Russian Civil War in 1918-1920? Any four points. [2010 (T-1)]

- Ans.**
- (i) The Russian army began to break up after Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution. Soldiers who were mostly peasants wished to go home for the land and deserted.
 - (ii) Now Bolshevik Socialists, Liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising. Their leaders organised the troops to fight the Bolsheviks.
 - (iii) During 1918 and 1919, the 'greens' (Socialist Revolutionaries) and 'whites' (pro-Tsarists) controlled most of the Russian empire. They were backed by French, American, British and Japanese troops. As these troops and the Bolsheviks fought a civil war, looting, banditry and famine became common.
 - (iv) Supporters of private property among 'whites' took harsh steps with peasants who had seized land.

II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. PROJECT

PROJECT 1

Topic covered : Russian Revolution

Objective : To create awareness about the First Socialist Revolution and the role of Lenin.

Skills developed : Effective learning, general awareness, analytical abilities about society and economy.

Time Required : 5 days

Method :

- (a) Read more books on the Russian Revolution
- (b) Visit related websites
- (c) Visit the Russian embassy and collect photographs, illustrations, etc. on the Russian Revolution.
- (d) Focus on the socio-economic conditions on the eve of Revolution, the role of Bolsheviks under V.I. Lenin; the events leading to the Russian Revolution.

PROJECT 2

- Topic Covered** : Chronology of the Russian Revolution.
Objective : Learning the skills of making time – line and flowchart.
Skills Developed : Effective learning, thinking skill, inculcation of sense of history.
Time Required : 2 days
Method : (a) Make a time-line covering a span of 35 years from 1895 to 1930 of the Russian history.
(b) After the time-line is ready, place the following events in the chronological order.
(c) Make a flowchart and write main features of the following events in the chart.

I. Events :

1. Formation of Russian Social Democratic Workers Party
2. Bloody Sunday
3. First World War's beginning
4. Febuary Revolution
5. October Revolution
6. Civil War
7. Formation of Bolshevik Government
8. Collectivisation
9. Death of Lenin
10. Beginning of Five-Year Plans.

B. ACTIVITIES

- (1) Imagine that a meeting has been called in your area to discuss the socialist idea of doing away with private property and introducing collective ownership. Write the speech you would make at the meeting if you are : (a) a poor labourer working in the fields (b) a medium-level landowner (c) a house owner.
- (2) The year is 1866, you are a general in the Tsar's army on the eastern front. You are writing a report for the government in Moscow. In your report, suggest what you think the government should do to improve the situation.

C. ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT - I

Extract - 1

Alexander Shiyaprikeon, a social worker of the time, gives us a description of how the meetings were organised : *“Propaganda was done in the plants and shops or on individual basis. There were also discussions, legal meetings took place on matters covering [official issues], but this activity was skilfully integrated into the general struggle for the liberation of the working class. Illegal meetings were ... arranged on the spur of the moment but in an organised way during lunch, in evening break, in front of the exit, in the yard or, in the establishments with several floors, on the stairs. The most alert workers would form a ‘plug’ in the doorway and the whole mass piled of in the exit. An agitator would get up right there on the spot. Management would contact the police on the telephone, but the speeches would have already been made and the neccessary decisions taken by the time they arrived...”*

Extract - 2

Women in the February Revolution

'Women workers, often . . . inspired their male co-workers . . . At the Lorenz telephone factory, .. Marfa Vasileva almost single-handedly called a successful strike. Already that morning, in celebration of Woman's Day, women workers had presented red bows to the men . . . Then Marfa Vasileva, a milling machine operator, stopped work and declared an impromptu strike. The workers on the floor were ready to support her . . . The foreman informed the management and sent her a loaf of bread. She took the bread but refused to go back to work. The administrator asked her again why she refused to work and she replied, "I cannot be the only one who is satiated when others are hungry." Women workers from another section of the factory gathered around Marfa in support and gradually all the other women ceased working. Soon the men downed their tools as well and the entire crowd rushed onto the street.

Read the following extracts and answer the given questions :

- (a) List five changes in the mood of the workers.
- (b) Place yourself in the position of a woman who has seen both situations and write an account of what has changed.

ASSIGNMENT - 2

The October Revolution and the Russian Countryside: Two Views

'News of the Revolution of October 25, 1917, reached the village the following day and was greeted with enthusiasm; to the peasants it meant free land and an end to the war. . . . The day the news arrived the landowner's manor house was looted, his stock farms were "requisitioned" and his vast orchard was cut down and sold to the peasants for wood; all his far buildings were torn down and left in ruins, while the land was distributed among the peasants who were prepared to live the new Soviet life.'

From: Fedor Belov, The History of a Soviet Collective Farm

A member of a landowning family wrote to a relative about what happened at the estate:

The "coup" happened quite painlessly, quietly and peacefully....The first days were unbearable. Mikhail Mikhailovich (the estate owner) was calm...The girls also...I must say the chairman behaves correctly and even politely. We were left two cows and two horses. The servants tell them all the time not to bother us. "Let them live. We vouch for their safety and property. We want them treated as humanely as possible...."

...There are rumours that several villages are trying to evict the committees and return the estate to Mikhail Mikhailovich. I don't know if this will happen, or if it's good for us. But we rejoice that there is a conscience in our people...'

Read the following two views on the Russian Revolution in the countryside. Imagine yourself to be a witness to the events. Write a short account from the viewpoint of :

- (a) an owner of an estate
- (b) a small peasant
- (c) a journalist

ASSIGNMENT - 3

- (1) (a) Make a detailed chart on views expressed by various personalities and parties in Central Asia on the Russian Revolution.
(b) Why did people in Central Asia respond to the Russian Revolution in different ways? Give main points only.
- (2) Imagine yourself to be a worker in a big Russian factory. Write about the effects and consequences of first two plans (1927-32 and 1933-38).

D. GENERAL DISCUSSION

- (1) On the basis of what you have read in the book, have a general discussion in the class on the following topics :
 - (a) What did the Indians find impressive about the USSR? Why? What is your own impression about the USSR of that period?
 - (b) What did Rabindranath Tagore fail to notice? Were his views correct?
- (2) Have a class discussion on the two accounts of the Russian Revolution in the countryside.
 - (a) What does it tell you about the feelings of the peasants?
 - (b) The servants behaviour towards Mikhail Mikhailovich.
 - (c) Were the estates returned to the owners? Why? Why not?
- (3) Have a class discussion on the merits and demerits of the Russian Revolution.

E. SPEECH

- (1) **Imagine that you are a striking worker in 1905 who is being tried in court for your act of rebellion. Draft the speech you would make in your defence. Act out your speech for your class.**

Ans. Speech

Comrades !

Today I stand before you, asking you what wrong have I committed. I have served for many long years at the Putilov Iron Works but no consideration was shown to me and I was dismissed. We called for industrial action. Brothers, you must be aware that over the next few days more than 100,000 workers at St. Petersburg have gone on strike demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions. We organised a procession to press for our demands. As our procession moved ahead, we were attacked by the police and the Cossacks. Over 100 of our friends were killed and about 300 wounded. I have been imprisoned and am under trial for rebellion. Dear friends, do you think what we did can be termed as rebellion? If we demand our rights, are we to be called rebels? To ask for rights and human working conditions for our brothers — is this rebellion? I think we should all become aware of our rights and ask for civil liberties. Lawyers, doctors, engineers and other middle-class workers have established their unions and demanded a constituent assembly.

Remember, friends, most committees and unions are working unofficially since they are declared illegal. Severe restrictions have been placed on political activity. The Tsar does not

want any questioning of his authority or any reduction in his power. He has changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians. Liberals and revolutionaries are kept out.

In such a situation, dear friends, do you think what we did was rebellion? Should we be tried for this act of ours?

Q.2. Write the headline and a short news item about the uprising of 24 October 1917 for each of the following newspapers :

- *a Conservative paper in France*
- *a Radical newspaper in Britain*
- *a Bolshevik newspaper in Russia*

Ans.

The Revolution in Russia

The Russians, on 24th October, have been able to bring the city Petrograd under the committee's control. The ministers have also surrendered. Late in the day, the ship Aurora shelled the Winter Palace. Soon other vessels sailed down the Neva and took over various military points. A meeting of the All Russian Congress of Soviets was held in Petrograd. The majority has approved the Bolshevik action. Uprisings have been reported in other cities.

It is hoped that this violence and unrest will soon give way to a constructive period of peace and prosperity, that this changeover will be slow and not snap its links with the past.

A Radical Newspaper in Britain

Russians Rejoice!

A Bolshevik Uprising in Petrograd

- At dawn, military men loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers.
- Late in the day, the ship Aurora shelled the Winter Palace.
- By nightfall the city was under the committee's control and the ministers had surrendered.
- Uprisings in other cities.

A major victory for the Bolsheviks was achieved when the majority approved the Bolshevik action at a meeting of the All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd.

In September Lenin had already begun discussions for an uprising against the government as he feared that the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship. Bolshevik supporters in the army, soviets and factories were brought together. On 16th October Lenin had persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power.

It is hoped that now there would be fair distribution of private property and not concentration of property in the hands of a few, as also the giving up of privileges by rulers and officials.

A Bolshevik Newspaper in Russia

'V' for Victory

Socialist Seizure of Power

The Bolsheviks have done it once again! Victory could be sensed even when Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. For this a Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet.

On 24th October the Prime Minister, sensing trouble, left the city to summon troops.

The Bolshevik acted with lightning speed.

- At dawn, military men loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers.
- Late in the day, the ship Aurora shelled the Winter Palace.
- By nightfall the city was under the committee's control and the ministers had surrendered.

To add to this, a very positive development was that at a meeting of the All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd, the majority approved the Bolshevik action. The Bolsheviks will now certainly by the next few months control the Moscow – Petrograd area.

Q.3. Imagine that you are a middle-level wheat farmer in Russia after collectivisation. You have decided to write a letter to Stalin explaining your objections to collectivisation. What would you write about the conditions of your life? What do you think would be Stalin's response to such a farmer?

Ans. Dear Mr Stalin,

I am Alexander, a middle level wheat farmer of Russia. There have been efforts from your side to bring about improvement in the economic status of the peasants by introducing collective farming in the countryside. According to this programme all peasants will be forced to cultivate in collective farms (Kolkhoz). The bulk of the land and implements will be transferred to the ownership of collective farms.

But something needs to be looked into. All of us are not rich and do not have what you think we possess. We do not have huge tracts of land, nor do we stock supplies to create a shortage. It is not that we are against socialism, we support it but are at a loss to understand how collectivisation will ease the problem of shortage of grain. As for the modernisation process, we as individuals would certainly want our farms to be modern and progressive and would make every effort to do so. Such repressive measures for progress would not uphold the ideals of the revolutions. Such restrictions show that things are not what they should be in Soviet Union. Industry and agriculture will develop, the poor fed but the essential freedom to its citizens will be denied.

Dear sir, I have tried to convey my feelings through this letter, feelings which are not mine alone, but of many of my kind who live in the countryside.

With regards

Yours sincerely

Alexander

Stalin's response would have centred around the following points :

- that rich peasants and traders in the countryside were holding stock in the hope of higher prices; speculation had to be stopped and supplies confiscated
- that grain shortage was due to small size of holdings
- that small sized farms could not be modernised
- that profits of the Kolkhoz would be shared.