

Name _____

A level History

Making the jump from GCSEs to A levels may be a little tricky to adjust to and your teachers will understand that it takes some getting used to. Nevertheless, you can make the transition easier by preparing now. A levels are about learning to study independently so now is the time to read around the subject- not just books but YouTube clips, podcasts, film and TV adaptations news articles journals and blogs. For the next 6 weeks or so we will be setting homework to help you prepare.

First you need to know the Exam Board – **Edexcel** and the units you are going to study. In year 12 we study Communist states in the twentieth century Option E

- **Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin**
- **Mao's China, 1949–76**

On pages 2-4 are the specifications for both units

Week 1 homework

1. Log onto Seneca Learning and join the special Edexcel A level preparation class Summer 2020.

<https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/join-class/40xktwudrl>

The course prepares you for the Russia unit. Unfortunately, there is no China course yet. Over the next few weeks, we would like you to use Seneca whenever you have some spare time. A little and often works best! Your teachers will be able to check your progress too.

2. Look through the Russia and China specifications Using different coloured highlighters highlight important individuals (such as political leaders, key reformers and other key individuals) key events and key terms. Most certainly you will not be familiar with all the language but do not worry. Choose just 5 terms to look up the meaning of.

The textbook we use is listed below but you will not need to purchase it until September

- Communist states in the 20th century published by Pearson isbn 978-1-4479-8527-3

Need help? Don't forget you can email the teachers who taught you for GCSE or email Ms Peers ann.prs@sns.hackney.sch.uk

Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

Overview

This option comprises a study in breadth, in which students will learn about the key political, social and economic features of communist rule in Russia during the twentieth century, an era that saw its authority and influence rise to the status of a superpower, only to diminish and decline later in the century. The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale, and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1917–85. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question, which is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: reasons for the fall of the USSR, c1985–91.

Themes	Content
1. Communist government in the USSR 1917-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing Communist Party control, 1917–24: the creation of a one-party state and the party congress of 1921; the nature of government under Lenin; the growing centralisation of power. Stalin in power, 1928–53: the elimination of opponents in government and party; the purges of the 1930s; Stalin’s power over party and state. Government, 1953–85: changes in leaders’ control of the state across the period; Khrushchev’s attempts to reform government including de-Stalinisation; the return to stability under Brezhnev, 1964–82; growing political stagnation, 1982-85.
2. Industrial and agricultural change 1917-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards a command economy, 1917–28: the nationalisation of industry; War Communism and the New Economic Policy; state control of industry and agriculture. Industry and agriculture in the Stalin era: the Five-Year Plans and industrial change; agricultural collectivisation and its impact; recovery from war after 1945 Changes in industry and agriculture, 1953–85, including: the promotion of light industry, chemicals and consumer goods; investment in agriculture and the Virgin Lands Scheme; the limited attempts at reform after 1964; economic decline.
3. Control of the people, 1917–85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media, propaganda and religion: state control of mass media and propaganda; attacks on religious beliefs and practices. The personality cults of Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. The secret police: attacks on opponents of the government; the roles of Yagoda, Yezhov and Beria; Andropov’s suppression of dissidents, 1967–82; the continued monitoring of popular discontent, 1982–85. The state and cultural change: Proletkult, avant-garde and Socialist Realism, 1917–53; nonconformity from the 1950s; clashes between artists and the government to 1985
4. Social Developments 1917-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social security: full employment, housing and social benefits, 1917–53. Khrushchev, Brezhnev and the promotion of a stable society, 1953–85. Women and the family: the changing status of different groups of women in towns and countryside; changing government attitudes towards the family as a social unit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and young people: the growth of primary, secondary and higher education; the reduction of illiteracy; state control of the curriculum.
--	--

Historical Interpretations	Content
5. What explains the fall of the USSR, c 1985-91?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of the economic weaknesses of the USSR and the failure of reform. • The effects of Gorbachev's failure to reform the Communist Party and the Soviet government. • The impact of the nationalist resurgence in the late 1980s in the Soviet republics and in the communist states of Eastern Europe. • How far Gorbachev and Yeltsin can be seen as responsible for the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Option 2E: Mao's China, 1949–76

Overview

This option comprises a study in depth of the transformation of communist China in the years 1949–76. The aftershocks of these changes are still being felt today as China emerges as a great economic and political power on the world stage. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the nature and extent of change in this period, the effects of Mao Zedong's policies on the lives of the Chinese people, and Mao's role in driving dramatic political, social and economic changes.

Key topics	Content
1. Establishing communist rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China in 1949: the aftermath of the civil war of 1946–49; the state of China's industry, agriculture and national infrastructure. • The new power structure; the different roles of the CCP, the government, the bureaucracy and the People's Liberation Army (PLA); Mao's dominant position within government; the growth of democratic centralism. • Defeating the CCP's opponents: the 'three antis' and 'five antis' movements; the use of terror against opponents of Communist rule; the reunification campaigns in Tibet, Xinjiang and Guangdong; the development of the Laogai system. The Hundred Flowers campaign 1957 and aftermath to 1965. • China and the Korean War: its role in enhancing CCP control, suppressing opposition, and promoting national unity; the human and financial costs of intervention in Korea; China's enhanced international prestige.

<p>2. Agriculture and industry 49-65</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early changes in agriculture, 1949–57: attacks on landlordism; the redistribution of land; moves towards agricultural cooperation; the change from voluntary to enforced collectivisation. • The communes and their organisation; communal living; the abolition of private farming; Lysenkoism; the Great Famine of 1958–62; the restoration of private farming by Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping. • The First Five-Year Plan, 1952–56: the USSR’s financial and technical support; the plan’s targets, successes and failures. • The Second Five-Year Plan (the Great Leap Forward), 1958– 62: Mao’s reasons for launching it; state-owned enterprises; the successes and failures of the second Plan. The Lushan Conference 1959. Liu, Deng and economic reform, 1962–65.
<p>3. The Cultural Revolution and its aftermath 66-76</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mao’s reasons for launching the Cultural Revolution: divisions within the CCP between ideologues and pragmatists; the quest for permanent revolution; attacks on the bureaucracy; the divisions within the CCP between supporters and opponents of Mao’s policies. • The Red Guards and Red Terror: Mao’s hold on young people; the mass rallies of 1966; Red Guard attacks on the ‘four olds’ (culture, customs, habits, ideas); the growth of anarchy and the use of terror; cultural destruction. • Attacks on Mao’s political and class enemies: Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping; Lin Biao; the purging of the CCP membership; ‘capitalist roaders’ and foreigners living in China. • Winding down the Cultural Revolution, 1968–76: restoration of order by the PLA; ‘up to the mountains and down to the villages’ campaign; the return to power of Deng Xiaoping and Zhou Enlai; reining in the Gang of Four. The death of
<p>4. Social and Cultural Changes 49-76</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing status of women: foot binding; the Marriage Law 1950; the impact of collectivisation and the communes on women’s lives; women and the family; the nature and extent of change; the problem of changing traditional views, especially in the countryside. • Education and health provision: the growth of literacy; Pinyin; the collapse of education after 1966; the barefoot doctors; successes and failures of healthcare reform. • Cultural change: attacks on traditional culture in towns and countryside; the role of Jiang Qing; the imposition of revolutionary art and culture. • Religion: attacks on Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Islam and ancestor worship.

Week 2 Homework

Create a timeline for Russia 1917-91. Divide your Russia timeline up into ten-year segments. Do not make your timelines too small. Ideally you will need to use an A3 sheet of paper (2 A4 sheets joined). Work out a suitable scale maybe 6 centimetres for 10 years.

Using the specification (and possibly your own research and Seneca learning) add some key events so for example you could include

- 1917 February Revolution: Tsar Nicholas overthrown
- 1917 October revolution: the establishment of Communist party control.
- 1991 Collapse of the Soviet Union

Do not try to overload your timelines - less can be more. You can also add key individuals to your timeline, but you will need to research when they were active in power.

Week 3 Homework

Complete the same exercise as you did for Russia on China 1949-1976. Make a timeline including key dates and individuals. Choose an appropriate scale bearing in mind you are covering under 30 years

Week 4 Homework

Go back through the Russia and China specifications. Look at the important individuals you highlighted in Week 1. Then create mini biographies – no more than 3/4 sentences for each person. If you have not already done so you can add the individuals to your timeline

Week 5 Homework

In A Level History there are many key terms that are important to understand. Each unit has its own key vocabulary. Create a glossary of these key words. Look at the words you picked out in Week 1 and then you can add these to your list

ideology, communism, capitalism, nationalism, centralisation, command economy, bureaucracy, republic, anarchy, interpretation.

Week 6 Homework

Research the geography of China and the Soviet Union. See the blank maps pages 7 and 8 or draw your own. Add as much detail as you can but make sure it is from the correct time period – it would be great to add images of that time period too.

Week 7 Homework

From your reading, identify some key questions you would like to investigate, research or find out more about. Create a file of resources, information and research on one of your questions.

Endeavour to answer your own question.

Or/And

Look at the list of suggestions of things to watch/listen to (page 6) and choose something.....

Suggestions for wider reading and viewing

Russia

To read

- [One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn](#) prisoner survives the gulag in Stalin's Russia
- [The Road of Bones by Anne Fine](#) Based on life in Russia under Stalin, it is a fable about the nature of totalitarianism.
- [Natasha's Will: Joan Lingard](#) Aristocratic Natasha makes a dangerous journey into exile during the Russian Revolution.
- [Animal Farm: A Fairy Story: George Orwell](#) A well-known classic story detailing the events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- [The Moscow trilogy by Simon Sebag Montefiore](#) Sashenka's family saga set in Moscow
- [The Dream Life of Sukhanov – Olga Grushin](#) 55-year-old man in 1985 Soviet Russia, having a nervous breakdown as his work and family life fall apart at the same time as Soviet Russia is on the brink of falling apart.
- [The Underground – Hamid Ismailov](#) abandoned mixed-race boy navigating the wondrous and terrifying city of Moscow before the Soviet Union's collapse.
- [The Master and Margarita by Bulgakov](#) written in the Soviet Union between 1928 and 1940 The story concerns a visit by the devil to the officially atheistic Soviet Union.
- [Life and Fate by Vasily Grossman](#) epic (get it as an audiobook) story of one family caught up in WW2

To watch

There are loads of short episodes here from Soviet history:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04lwmh0>

Feature length films

- [The Romanovs](#) – An Imperial Family – A Russian film with subtitles, set in 1917 focussing on the last days of Tsar Nicholas II and the rest of the Romanov family. •
- [Enemy at the Gates](#) – Set in 1942, in the Battle of Stalingrad, the main character, Vasily Zaytsev (played by Jude Law), becomes the poster boy for the Red Army due to his sniper skills.
- [Animal Farm](#) – The cartoon version of the book, showing the events leading up to the Russian Revolution.
- [Child 44](#) – Featuring Tom Hardy, the film follows a disgraced member of the Russian military police. Charged with investigating a series of child murders during the Stalin era.
- [Bridge of Spies](#) – Featuring Tom Hanks, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court and organise an exchange of the spy for a captured American pilot.
- [Goodbye Lenin](#) – a comedy, a young man must protect his fragile Mother who has come out of a long coma induced from the shock that Communism has ended.
- [The Death of Stalin](#) - another comedy set after Stalin's death in 1953, it follows the power struggle for the next Soviet leader.

China

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0b0v539> Mao biography

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b07npss6> Cultural revs effect on religion

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csywxz> Birth of the Republic

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csyx2h> an American of Mao

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csyx4r> memories of a Red Guard

Books

- [Wild Swans Jung Chang](#)
- [Do not say we have nothing by Madeleine Thien](#)
- [UFO in her eyes by Xiaolu Guo](#) (not about our period but a satire and an easy read)
- [To Live by Yu Hua](#)

Films

- Farewell my concubine –
- The Founding of a Republic – film about the birth of the party, Civil War, start of PRC. It's Chinese propoganda, but it has all the big stars – Jackie Chan, Jet Li etc! It's available on Amazon Prime.



