

A-level overview

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

The unit of study is split into two sections: Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917 and Part two: the Soviet Union, 1917–1964

A-level	Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894	The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917	The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941	The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964
Specification content	<p>Political authority and the state of Russia: autocracy; the political, social and economic condition of Russia in 1855 and the impact of the Crimean War.</p> <p>Political authority and attempts at reform: Alexander II; emancipation of the serfs and attempts at domestic and military reform Government and Tsars: Alexander II and Alexander III as rulers; attitudes to and imposition of autocracy; key developments.</p> <p>Political authority in action: Russification; treatment of ethnic minorities and Jews Opposition: ideas and ideologies; individuals; liberals and radical groups and the Tsarist reaction.</p> <p>Economic and social developments: industrial developments and the land issue; social divisions; nobles, landowners and position of the peasantry; the cultural influence of the Church</p>	<p>Political authority, government and Tsar; Nicholas II as ruler: political developments to 1914; 1905 Revolution; Duma government.</p> <p>Economic developments to 1914: industrial and agricultural growth and change.</p> <p>Social developments to 1914: change and conditions of working and living in towns and countryside; social divisions; cultural changes.</p> <p>Opposition: ideas and ideologies, liberalism, socialism; Marxism; individuals and radical groups.</p> <p>Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social problems of wartime; opposition and the collapse of autocracy; the political developments of 1917.</p> <p>Political authority, opposition and government: the Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of Bolshevik government by December 1917; opposition.</p>	<p>Political authority and government: new leaders and ideologies; Lenin's Russia, ideology and change; Stalin's rise, ideology and change.</p> <p>Political authority and government: the consolidation of Bolshevik authority and development of the Stalinist dictatorship.</p> <p>Economic developments: Lenin's decrees; the Stalinist economy; collectivisation and the Five Year Plans Social developments: effect of Leninist/Stalinist rule on class, women, young people, religion and national minorities; propaganda and cultural change.</p> <p>Opposition: faction; the Red Terror and the purges.</p> <p>The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1941.</p>	<p>Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social impact of war; effect on Stalin, government and 'the people' Political authority and government to 1953: High Stalinism; the revival of terror; destruction of 'supposed' opposition and cult of personality; the power vacuum on Stalin's death Political authority and government: Khrushchev's rise to power; policies and ideology; de-Stalinisation; political and party change.</p> <p>Economic and social developments: changes in industrial organisation from Stalin to Khrushchev; agriculture and the Virgin Lands scheme; social and cultural change from Stalin to Khrushchev.</p> <p>Opposition: cultural dissidents; communist divisions; hardliners and reformers; opponents of Khrushchev and his fall from power.</p>

				The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1964.
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The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

The unit of study is split into two sections: Part one: building a New Britain, 1951–1979 and Part two: Modern Britain, 1979–2007

Part one: building a New Britain, 1951–1979

A-level	The Affluent Society, 1951–1964	The Sixties, 1964–1970	The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979
Specification content	<p>Conservative governments and reasons for political dominance: Churchill, Eden, Macmillan and Home as political leaders; domestic policies; internal Labour divisions; reasons for Conservatives' fall from power</p> <p>Economic developments: post-war boom; balance of payments issues and 'stop-go' policies.</p> <p>Social developments: rising living standards; the impact of affluence and consumerism; changing social attitudes and tensions; class and 'the Establishment'; the position of women; attitudes to immigration; racial violence; the emergence of the 'teenager' and youth culture.</p> <p>Foreign relations: EFTA and attempts to join the EEC; relations with and policies towards USA and USSR; debates over the nuclear deterrent; Korean War; Suez; the 'Winds of Change' and decolonisation.</p>	<p>Wilson and the Labour governments: Wilson's ideology and leadership; economic policies and problems; devaluation; industrial relations; the trade unions; other domestic policies; Labour divisions; the beginning of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland; the end of post-war consensus; loss of 1970 election.</p> <p>Liberal reforming legislation: private members' bills and the end of capital punishment; divorce reform; the legalisation of abortion; the legalisation of homosexual relations; educational reform.</p> <p>Social and cultural change: the expansion of the mass media; growth in leisure activities; the impact of scientific developments; the reduction in censorship; progress towards female equality; changes in moral attitudes; youth culture and the 'permissive society'; anti-Vietnam war riots; issues of immigration and race.</p> <p>Relations with and policies towards USA, particularly issue of Vietnam; response to world affairs and relations with Europe;</p>	<p>Heath's government: Heath as leader; political and economic policies; industrial relations and the miners' strikes; the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, including the Sunningdale Agreement.</p> <p>Labour governments of Wilson and Callaghan: political, economic and industrial problems and policies; problems of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Society in the 1970s: progress of feminism; the Sex Discrimination Act; race and immigration; youth; environmentalism</p> <p>Britain's entry into and relations with Europe; the state of the 'special relationship' with USA; attitudes to USSR and China.</p>

		decolonisation including 'withdrawal East of Suez' and Rhodesia.	
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Part two: Modern Britain, 1979–2007

A-level	The impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987	Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997	The Era of New Labour, 1997–2007
Specification content	<p>The Thatcher governments: Thatcher as leader, character and ideology; ministers; support and opposition; electoral success; internal Labour divisions and the formation of the SDP; Northern Ireland and the troubles.</p> <p>Thatcher's economic policies and their impact: monetarism; privatisation; deregulation; issues of inflation, unemployment and economic realignment Impact of Thatcherism on society: sale of council houses; miners' strike and other industrial disputes; poll tax; extra-parliamentary opposition.</p> <p>Foreign Affairs: the Falklands; the 'special relationship' with USA; moves to end the Cold War; Thatcher as an international figure; attitudes to Europe, including Thatcher's policies; divisions within the Conservative Party.</p>	<p>Fall of Thatcher and her legacy; Major as leader; economic developments, including 'Black Wednesday' and its impact; political sleaze, scandals and satire; political policies; approach to Northern Ireland; Conservative divisions.</p> <p>Realignment of the Labour Party under Kinnock, Smith and Blair; reasons for Labour victory in 1997 Social issues: the extent of 'social liberalism'; anti-establishment culture; the position of women and race-relations.</p> <p>Foreign affairs: relations with Europe, including the impact of the Single European Act and Maastricht Treaty; interventions in the Balkans; contribution and attitude to the end of the Cold War.</p>	<p>The Labour governments: Blair as leader, character and ideology; constitutional change; domestic policies; Brown and economic policy; Northern Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement.</p> <p>The Conservative Party: leaders and reason for divisions; reason for electoral failures in 2001 and 2005.</p> <p>Social issues: workers, women and youth; the extent to which Britain had become a multicultural society.</p> <p>Foreign affairs: attitudes to Europe; the 'special relationship' with USA; military interventions and the 'war on terror'; Britain's position in the world by 2007.</p>