

KS5 Russian and Soviet History Overview (Jewish History)

Year 12					Year 13				
1. How did the Tsars seek to restore and maintain their authority after 1855?	2. Could forces of change overcome forces of reaction by 1894?	3. Could Nicholas II halt Russia's modernisation, 1894-1914?	4. What made the early 20 th century Russia's "age of revolution"?	5. Why was power so hard to hold in 1917?	6. Could socialism be achieved under Lenin, 1917-24?	7. How did Stalin's 'revolution from above' transform the USSR, 1924-41?	8. How 'totalitarian' was the USSR under Stalin?	9. Could Stalinism survive total war?	10. Could the Soviet Union be reformed after Stalin?
1.1. What challenges did Russia face in 1855?	2.1 What made the Liberal Intelligentsia?	3.1 How did Nicholas II aim to rule Russia?	4.1 Who made Russia's abortive revolution of 1905? (*)	5.1 What replaced Tsarism after 1917?	6.1 Would the Party or the State lead 'Russia' after 1917?	7.1 Policy, Personality, Patronage: How did Stalin take control?	8.1 How 'total' was Stalinist terror?	9.1 What do 900 days of siege reveal about the USSR's war?	10.1 Who could succeed Stalin?
1.2. Why were Russia's serfs emancipated in 1861?	2.2 What did 'the people' mean to the Populists?	3.2 Who posed the greatest threat to Nicholas II?	4.2 How did Russia's liberals seek to transform the state?	5.2 What did revolution mean to ordinary people?	6.2 Why did war not end in 1918?	7.2 How did Stalin change the politics of the USSR?	8.2 Who did Stalin's purges actually benefit?	9.2 Was the USSR ready for 'total war' by 1941?	10.2 How far could 'destalinisation' go?
1.3. Did the 'Great Reforms' actually strengthen Russia?	2.3 What turned Russia's radicals to terrorism?	3.3 Would revolution force Nicholas II to share power?	4.3 Who actually were the Socialist Revolutionaries?	5.3 How did politics realign after the February Revolution?	6.3 Could Civil War be a path to Communism?	7.3 Could the USSR 'make good the distance' with the West?	8.3 How does Swain use sources to make claims about the purges?	9.3 Did Stalin's leadership help or hinder the Soviet war effort?	10.3 Could industry recover after Stalin?
1.4. How far did Alexander II turn away from reform?	2.4 Did Marxism change Russia or Russia change Marxism?	3.4 Could the State Dumas challenge the Tsar's authority?	4.4 Did more unite than divide Russia's Social Democrats?	5.4 Could the 'hostage to the democracy' save Russia's 'democracy'?	6.4 Who posed the biggest threat to the Communists?	7.4 What motivated Stalin's collectivisation?	8.4 How far did Russia dominate the Soviet 'Empire'?	9.4 Would total war totally distort the Stalinist order?	10.4 Could agriculture recover after Stalin?
1.5. How far did Alexander III reverse his father's reforms?	2.5 What made Russia's industrialisation different?	3.5 How autocratic was Russia by 1914?	4.5 Was the opposition really defeated after 1905?	5.5 How did Jews respond to revolution, and revolution respond to Jews? (*)	6.5 Why did the Civil War lead to an explosion in pogroms? (*)	7.5 Who experienced the 1930s as a 'retreat' from Communism?	8.5 Was a Jewish homeland possible in a Communist state? (*)	9.5 How were society and culture impacted by total war?	10.5 Whose lives actually improved under Khrushchev?
1.6. How did Russification change what it meant to be 'Russian'?	2.6 Whose lives had changed for the better by 1894?	3.6 How strong was Tsarist industry by 1914?	4.6 How did 'Russians' really respond to the Great War?	5.6 What made Russia's revolution polarise in 1917?	6.6 Did capitalism save the world's first socialist state?	7.6 How was culture used to 'engineer the soul' of the USSR?	8.6 How (far) was resistance to Stalinism possible?	9.6 How were society and culture impacted by total war?	10.6 How far did 'cultural opposition' threaten Khrushchev?
1.7. Who made Russia Europe's most antisemitic country?	2.8 What tales could be heard on Russia's 'Jewish street'? (*)	3.7 How 'modern' was Russian agriculture by 1914?	4.7 Who made February 1917 a successful revolution?	5.7 What really caused the fall of the Provisional Government?	6.7 Did Communists conquer the 'cultural front'?			9.7 What did the Great Patriotic War mean to Soviet Jews? (*)	10.7 Who could force Khrushchev from power?
		3.9 How far had Russian society and culture changed by 1914?		5.8 Could the Bolsheviks hold state power?	6.8 Was social equality achieved in the 1920s?			9.8 Had Stalinism emerged unchanged from total war?	
								9.9 What motivated the return of terror during 'High Stalinism'?	
After introducing pogroms to illustrate Evans' contention, students are provided with a background to antisemitism in Russia by 1881-3.	Students are now introduced to wider social, cultural, economic, and political contributions of Jews to Russia's history, within the context of wider changes to society, highlighting the multiplicity of Jewish voices in Russia.	Linking together the arch conservatism of Nicholas II and the revolutionary developments of the early 20 th century, students are introduced to the relationship between counter-revolution and antisemitism in this period, in which the pogroms after the 1905 October Manifesto are framed by the growing political antisemitism expressed by the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.	After examining the wider social and political changes of 1917, students are introduced to Jewish social and political responses to the fall of Tsarism, highlighting again the multiplicity of Jewish voices.	Having briefly noted the wave of pogroms in the Civil War the previous lesson, students are challenged to consider a recently researched area of history, 'Red Pogroms', utilising the work of McGeever to challenge binary perceptions of antisemitic agency and opposition in the Civil War.	Within the context of Stalin's 'revolution from above' and its impact on non-Russian ethnicities, students are introduced to Birobidzhan, the Soviet attempt to create a territorial Jewish homeland in eastern Siberia, in order to draw out the motivations, policies, and impact of the Soviet regime towards Jews in the 1930s.	Considering World War Two through a Russian and Soviet lens (the 'Great Patriotic War'), students are asked to explore the diverse experiences of Soviet Jews during the war and prompted to consider why the Holocaust, despite taking place to a considerable extent on Soviet territory, has not been widely remembered in Russia and the USSR since. Bridging into this, students are introduced to the return of Stalinist terror and purges after the war through the lens of antisemitism, within the context of the emerging Cold War and the establishment of the State of Israel.			

Thematic and Content Links between Lessons