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# GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/C: Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and  
communism

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## Interpretations Booklet

**Interpretations A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03



2 5 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / C

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**Interpretation A** Adapted from Arthur Ransome's autobiography published in 1976.

Arthur Ransome was a British journalist who reported on the First World War in Russia. He lived in Russia from 1913 to 1924. He was friendly with Lenin and Trotsky. Ransome later married Trotsky's secretary. He also sent regular reports about Russia to the British government.

The Provisional Government ended because it had been weakened by failure in the First World War. The Russian army was devastated by its disastrous attacks at the Front. The weakness of the government became obvious during July 1917, when there were armed demonstrations by soldiers and workers. In Petrograd more and more people were openly hostile to the Provisional Government.

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**Interpretation B** Adapted from the memoirs of George Buchanan, published in the 1920s.

George Buchanan was the British government's representative in Russia from 1910 until shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution. He worked closely with the Provisional Government and supported it during his time in Russia. Buchanan wanted to see a parliamentary system develop in Russia and he was fearful for the future of Russia.

The Provisional Government ended because of growing support for the Bolsheviks. Lenin and Trotsky were ruthless and well-organised. They were extraordinary men but with dangerous political ideas. The Bolsheviks promised peace at any cost. They used propaganda to persuade Russian soldiers to stop fighting the enemy and instead to challenge their own government. The Provisional Government did not know how to deal with the Bolsheviks.

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## END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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