

Paper: 1
Topic 5

Dictatorship and conflict in the USSR 1924-53



Outline of this topic:-

1. How did Stalin defeat his rivals for power 1924-29?

Stalin was not the obvious choice for successor and in fact Lenin recommended his removal. But using his position as **General Secretary**, Stalin out-manoeuvred firstly Trotsky, then Kamenev and Zinoviev and finally Bukharin.

2. Stalin transformed the economy of the USSR from 1928, making into a **superpower**.

Stalin created a **Command Economy** (central control)

- a) **Collectivisation** - peasants were forced to pool their land/resources into large units
- b) **Industrialisation** was dramatically increased through **Five Year Plans**

How did these changes affect the lives of Soviet citizens?

3. How did Stalin control the USSR?

Stalin created a **Cult of Personality** around himself using propaganda. The secret police became even more powerful, renamed OGPU then **NKVD**

The Purges – Stalin got rid of millions of people who he thought might criticise him. His victims were executed or sent to slave labour camps known as **Gulags**

Religious organisations, ethnic groups, artists and writers were purged

Children were indoctrinated through education & youth groups:- Pioneers & the **Komsomol**

4. How did the USSR defeat Germany in the Second World War 1941-45 ? & the USSR after the war to the death of Stalin 1945-53.

Timeline for the USSR 1924-53 (see textbook p vi-vii for world context)

	Political /Foreign Policy	Economic
1922	Stalin appointed as General Secretary	
1923	Lenin added postscript to his testament- that Stalin should be removed	
1924	Lenin's death and funeral	
1925	Trotsky removed as leader of the Red Army and as Commissar for War	
1926	Trotsky expelled from Politburo	
1927	Trotsky expelled from Communist Party, Kamenev and Zinoviev removed from Politburo and Party	1927-8 Grain procurement crisis
1928		Stalin ended NEP & enforced Collectivisation First Five Year Plan began Shakhty Trials (economic purges)
1929	Bukharin removed from the Politburo/ party Trotsky was exiled.	Dekulakisation
1932	Stalin's wife committed suicide.	Famine
1933		Second Five Year Plan began
1934	Murder of Kirov –purge of Old Bolsheviks	
1935		Stalin allowed peasants a private plot Stakhanov
1936	Stalin's Constitution	
1936-8	Yezhovschina "Terror" Moscow Show Trials Kamenev, Zinoviev, Bukharin shot Millions arrested /sent to gulags/shot	
1937-8	Army Purges	1938 Third Five Year Plan began
1939	Nazi Soviet Pact	
1940	Murder of Trotsky	
1941	Operation Barbarossa- Germany invaded the USSR	Scorched Earth Policy
1941-4	Siege of Leningrad	
1942-3	Battle of Stalingrad	
1943	Battle of Kursk	
1946		4th Five Year Plan began
1952-3	Doctors' plot	
1953	Stalin died	

How did Stalin emerge as leader of the USSR by 1929?

The Bolshevik Party had been run collectively by the **Politburo**. Lenin was not actually the official leader of the Party but he was greatly respected and usually persuaded the others to agree to his policies. However there were notable disagreements:-

Can you think of any?

From 1922 – 1924, Lenin suffered a series of strokes, making him less able to contribute to decisions and raising the question of what would happen after his death.

Activity p 7 textbook.

There were some rivalries apparent among the main leaders; Lenin above all wanted to avoid a split.

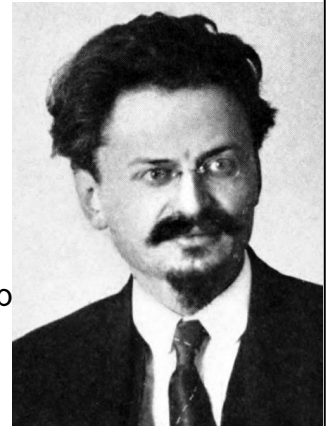
The two main issues dividing the Party:-

Copy the bullet points & key terms box p 6 textbook and refer to p 12 too:-

There were 5 main Bolsheviks.

Trotsky textbook p 9

- Charismatic, brilliant orator and thinker.
- Menshevik until 1917;
- Played a crucial role in 1917
- Commissar for War
- As leader of the **Red Army**, played a key role in the Civil War
- His over-confidence led him to think he did not need to build up a base of supporters and also made others dislike him.
- Critical of **NEP (Scissors Crisis)**; created a group calling for **rapid industrialisation**.
- Believed in **World Revolution** i.e. that the USSR must encourage revolutions in more advanced countries as the USSR would need outside help to build a communist state.



Kamenev textbook p 10

- Good thinker
- Head of the Moscow Communist Party
- Acting head of Soviet government
- Played little part in Civil War
- Close friend of Lenin
- Friend of Stalin (spent time in exile together)
- In favour of **rapid industrialisation**



Zinoviev

- helped Lenin set up the Bolshevik Party in 1903; viewed by Lenin as a close friend
- good speaker
- Head of the Petrograd Communist Party
- Leader of the **Comintern**- the organisation set up to co-ordinate revolutions in other countries
- In favour of **rapid industrialisation**
- Gained a reputation in the Civil War for staying in luxurious hotels far from the fighting; seen as vain.

These two men had opposed the decision to take power in October 1917. They disliked Trotsky for his arrogance and did not want him to become leader.

Bukharin –

- brilliant economist and political writer
- currently editor of Pravda
- close friend of Lenin, Trotsky & Stalin.
- Lenin considered his ideas not strictly “Marxist”
- helped October Revolution in Moscow
- very popular young politician “Golden boy”
- but focused on bringing people together rather than building base of supporters in the party.
- had been critical of the Treaty of Brest Litovsk



Firm supporter of NEP

(allied with Rykov and Tomsky, also members of the Politburo)

Stalin “Man of Steel”

Read about his background p 7.

He wasn't as brilliant at speaking or as intellectual as the others.

He was Georgian and spoke with a thick accent.

He did not play a big role in the October Revolution.

Bottom p7-8- explain the incident that led to his deep hatred of Trotsky



Why did Lenin originally admire Stalin? p.8

In 1922, he was appointed **General Secretary** of the Party. This was considered a boring job by the others as it involved administration.

Stalin was seen as a political moderate who generally kept a low profile at meetings. He was seen as a bit dull.

Trotsky called Stalin “**the Party's most eminent mediocrity**” a “grey blur”

“Trotsky refrained from attacking Stalin because he felt secure. No contemporary, and he least of all, saw in Stalin of 1923 the menacing and towering figure he was to become. It seemed to Trotsky almost a joke that Stalin, the wilful and sly but shabby and inarticulate man in the background, should be his rival”

Isaac Deutscher 1959

Stalin believed in **Socialism in One Country**

Use p 8 bullet point 3 to explain this theory:-

He was also appointed **Commissar for Nationalities**, responsible for overseeing affairs of non-Russians in the USSR.

He crushed a rebellion in Georgia with great brutality. This led to complaints about him which was one of the reasons why Lenin changed his mind about Stalin and wanted to remove him from his posts.

Lenin's Testament

This was like a will to be read after his death in which he summed up his opinions of the main contenders;

hi-light in one colour what this extract says about Stalin and in another what it says about Trotsky:-

Comrade Stalin, having become Secretary-General, has unlimited authority concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that authority with sufficient caution. Comrade Trotsky, on the other hand, is distinguished not only by outstanding ability. He is personally perhaps the most capable man in the present Central Committee but he has displayed excessive self-assurance and shown excessive preoccupation with the purely administrative side of the work.

Which candidate would this will help most?

Lenin also mentioned Kamenev, Zinoviev and Bukharin. He mentioned their good points but also their negative points e.g. that Bukharin was not always Marxist, that K&Z had opposed seizing power in October 1917.

Perhaps Lenin wanted them to work together?

Stalin's brutal treatment of Georgia and his rudeness to Lenin's wife (see p 6) caused Lenin to have graver doubts about Stalin. In late December 1923, Lenin added a codicil to his Testament:-

Stalin is too rude... I propose to the comrades to find a way to remove Stalin (from his post as General Secretary)

Look through the candidates and rank them in order of likelihood to succeed Lenin:- give reasons for some of your choices

Reasons for my candidate	Reasons against the others

Use the table on p 11 of your text book to add any further points about Trotsky and Stalin to your notes.

How did Stalin get rid of his rivals 1923-9?

Despite his appearance of mediocrity, Stalin was a ruthless and astute politician, who knew how to play his rivals off against each other.

Moreover his seeming insignificance was an advantage.

Read these two descriptions of him.

More than anything we were frightened of Trotsky seizing power though we now know that was not the main problem. In those days Stalin was an unknown figure to us. I worked in the Kremlin and I didn't know who Stalin was...

Red Army Commander

Stalin tried to stay in the shadows...He accomplished (his aim) in the most cunning way. And he allowed nothing to get in his way

A Communist Party member

What possible advantage did this give Stalin in the leadership contest?

He was also very good at seeming friendly with the other main leaders.

Read extract A p 8. What impression does it give of Stalin as a politician?

See p 12:-

The Left in favour of rapid industrialisation - Trotsky, Zinoviev & Kamenev

The Right in favour of NEP – Bukharin (Rykov & Tomsky)

Meanwhile where was Stalin?

Stalin got rid of his rivals in stages. *See the overview diagram p 13.*

Step 1 Stalin allied with _____ vs _____

Step 2 Stalin allied with _____ vs _____

Step 3 Stalin defeated _____

Stage 1. Stalin built up a power base & isolated his main rival,

a) Stalin used his position as **General Secretary** of the Party to build up a support base in the Party. Between 1923-5, 500.000 new members were admitted to the Party (the “Lenin Enrolment”). Stalin admitted those who would be loyal to Stalin.

Why did this give him an advantage?

The job also enabled him to learn of job vacancies and meetings, for which he set agendas. Thus he was able to hear about everything that was happening and also put people loyal to him in positions of power.

Furthermore he liaised with Lenin who was increasingly invalided and unable to attend meetings.

B) Lenin’s Funeral 1924

Trotsky had been ill and was convalescing in the countryside when Lenin died. Trotsky missed the funeral, possibly because Stalin told him the wrong date.

How would Trotsky’s failure to attend Lenin’s funeral appear to other people?



Meanwhile Stalin turned the funeral into a huge propaganda event with Lenin elevated into a god and Stalin as the chief mourner and closest loyal follower.

Read source D p 13. What do you notice about what he emphasises and his tone towards Lenin?

This was followed up with...

c) The Creation of the Cult of Lenin

Compared to Trotsky, Kamenev and Bukharin, Stalin was not a gifted writer. So he established (through propaganda) a new criterion for leadership – it was not how gifted you were at speaking or brilliant at theorising, but how close you were to Lenin.

He created a cult around Lenin whose body was embalmed and placed in a mausoleum. Lenin was praised as a god-like figure who could do no wrong.

d) Stalin wrote a simplified book of Lenin's ideas which he called "*The Foundations of Leninism*".

This meant that most people only read the bits of Lenin's ideas that Stalin wanted them to. He emphasised things that Lenin had said that suited Stalin's purposes e.g. when he forbade the formation of factions.

e) The Suppression of Lenin's Testament

In May 1924, Lenin's wife gave his Testament to the Central Committee. It was read out.

It was vital that Stalin prevented Lenin's Testament being published to the rest of the party and stopped implementation of its recommendation that

Fortunately for Stalin, **Zinoviev and Kamenev** didn't want the Testament published either.

Summarise the bullet points from p 13

So they persuaded the **Central Committee** not to publish the Testament.

They also persuaded the Central Committee that Stalin had learnt his lesson.

f) **Stalin worked with Kamenev & Zinoviev** against Trotsky.

Kamenev and Zinoviev saw Trotsky as the main contender so they worked with Stalin to remove Trotsky from contention.

Kamenev and Zinoviev were better thinkers/speakers than Stalin and demolished Trotsky's reputation through their speeches and articles.

They accused him of exaggerating his role in the October Revolution and highlighted disagreements he had with Lenin, especially before he became a Bolshevik.

They accused Trotsky of **forming a faction** (remember that this had been forbidden in 1921) when he and his supporters criticised NEP ("Scissors Crisis")

Moreover they claimed that Trotsky was taking advantage of Lenin's illness to criticise his policy of NEP.

Stalin did not have to contribute much to the speeches as Kamenev and Zinoviev did it all.

They ridiculed his policies of **World Revolution** – *Trotsky's belief that the USSR could not survive as a socialist state on its own and needed more advanced countries to become Communist to help them.*

Stalin promoted an alternative policy of **Socialism in One Country** - that the USSR was strong enough to survive as a socialist state without help from other countries.

Which policy would be more appealing to Soviet people?

The decisive showdown was at the **13th Party Congress** when Trotsky called for industrialisation and greater democracy in the party.

Stalin's "**Yes men**" voted against Trotsky. Trotsky was isolated and discredited.

1925 Trotsky was removed from his post of Commissar for War which meant that he no longer controlled the **Red Army**. ***

1926 Trotsky was expelled from the **Politburo**.

Thus he was out of contention for power.

Use p 14 (middle) to list ways in which Trotsky was partly to blame for this himself:-

Stage Two Ousting Kamenev & Zinoviev 1926- 1927

Kamenev and Zinoviev were waking up to the threat posed by Stalin who by now was making decisions without them and ignoring them in meetings.

Kamenev and Zinoviev wanted to **abandon NEP and focus on industrialisation.**

Now that Trotsky was no longer a threat, they grouped themselves **with** him as the **United Opposition** against NEP.

Meanwhile Stalin united with the right wing of the Party- **Bukharin**, Rykov and Tomsky – who believed in keeping NEP.

At the **15th Party Congress** in 1927, Kamenev , Zinoviev and Trotsky called for industrialisation.

Bukharin (Rykov and Tomsky) argued that the USSR needed to continue with NEP. (probably at this point most of the Party agreed)

Kamenev Zinoviev and Trotsky were accused of forming a **faction.**

Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev were shouted down by Stalin's "Yes men" in the Party Congress.

They tried to spread their ideas on the street with leaflets.

Stalin launched a propaganda campaign against them and his Yes-men voted to remove them from their power bases & the Politburo.

In 1927, Kamenev Zinoviev and Trotsky were expelled from the Party.

(Kamenev and Zinoviev were readmitted when they admitted they were wrong; Trotsky refused to do this so he was expelled from the country in 1929)

Stage Three Bukharin 1928-9

Stalin turned against Bukharin.

In 1927-8, there was a shortage of grain reaching the cities and many people blamed NEP.

Stalin switched to the policy of rapid industrialisation.

This followed the mood of the Party.

Stalin had previously been rather vague about his views (remember that he left the arguments to his allies) Now he came out of the shadows and firmly identified his position as pro-industrialisation.

We will later see how he argued that there was threat of invasion from the West which made industrialisation urgent.

When Bukharin tried to defend NEP he was outvoted. He was removed from the Politburo and the Party in 1929

Aged 50, Stalin was the sole remaining contender for power.

(Kamenev, Zinoviev and Bukharin were allowed back into the Party but in lowly positions, however they were eventually killed in the purges 1936-8)

The end of Trotsky.

In 1929, Trotsky was expelled from the USSR.

He eventually settled in Mexico and wrote articles critical of Stalin.

In 1940, he was murdered by a hit man hired by Stalin.

(Read the extend your knowledge panel p 49)



Discussion activity. Decide how much you agree with these statements: add a number 1-5 in the right hand column- 1 if you disagree, 5 if you strongly agree.

Stalin was dull and unimaginative	
Stalin appeared to be dull and unimaginative	
Trotsky lost the leadership campaign because he made mistakes	
Stalin trusted to luck rather than careful planning	
Stalin was ruthless & decisive.	

How did Stalin emerge as leader?

Weaknesses / Mistakes of Others	Stalin's tactics
Other?	

Check against p 17

1. In the shaded box at the top of each step, choose the appropriate summary for each of **Stalin's steps to power:**

- Trotsky was expelled from the key positions in the party.
- Stalin presented himself as the key player at Lenin's funeral.
- Stalin isolated Bukharin and emerged as sole leader of the Communist Party.
- Stalin stopped the publication of Lenin's Will.
- Kameney and Zinoviev were expelled from the Party.

2. In the space below each step, try to summarise how Stalin achieved it.

Activity p 16

Do your own version of the diagram p 16

Stalin's role as General Secretary

Policies

Trotsky's belief in world revolution was less popular and was discredited (it didn't happen) Socialism in One Country was more popular.

NEP was divisive; until 1928, probably most people in the Party were prepared to let it continue, so those who wanted to end it, Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev were accused of forming an opposition faction.

However the grain procurement crisis led the Party to turn against NEP thus Bukharin was then isolated.

Stalin mostly kept his ideas moderate and/or to himself and waited to see how the feeling in the Party was; he didn't nail his colours the mast until 1928.

Reasons for Stalin's victory

Stalin's political skill & personality

Weaknesses and mistakes of his rivals

Question C Examination Technique

Making a judgement relating to one of the following:

Causes, effects or significance.

The question will always be phrased as:

‘statement....’ How far do you agree? Explain your answer. (16)

(there will be a choice of 2)

- The statement will be presented as a **quotation** which you will be asked to **agree / disagree** with and explain your answer.
- Start with the factor in the statement.
- You will also be given **two short bullet points** to act as stimulus material for you; although you don't have to use them, you would be unwise to not use them!
- You should develop each stimulus point into a paragraph, using your knowledge. Begin the paragraph with a topic sentence like

“Stalin’s position as General Secretary was vital in helping him get to power.

Or *“However rivalry among his opponents also helped him...”*

- Make sure you explain how the factor relates to the question focus. e.g. how did his role as General Secretary help Stalin get to power.

Better answers will have precisely selected information- nothing that is not relevant or linked to the question.

- You should analyse and evaluate these aspects- i.e. **how much** did they contribute to (the question focus) e.g. **how important** was his role as General Secretary in helping Stalin get to power.
- You should generate at least one other paragraph in addition to the stimulus points.
- Your conclusion should be your judgement about which was the most important factor and give reasons for this choice. See below.
- You have **24 minutes** for this question

3 paragraphs on 3 factors, followed by a conclusion in which you clearly reach a judgement and justify your choice.



How to reach a good judgement:

In order to get the highest mark possible, you must show the criteria you have used for your overall judgement with clear justification.

Look at the example below and circle the best judgement.

'I chose this pair of jeans because they were the best.'	Here, a judgement has been given, with justification for that judgement only being asserted.
'I chose this pair of jeans because they suited me best.'	A judgement with some justification is given here although there is no evidence of valid criteria being applied.
'I chose this pair of jeans because although others were a better fit or better price, this pair was the best combination of a good fit around the waist and the right length at a price I could afford.'	This is an exemplary judgement. There is clear use of criteria being shown here for the judgement and clear justification.

Now try this C question for homework:

'The main reason why Stalin emerged as the single leader of the USSR by 1929 was his role as General Secretary.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer. (16 Marks)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Stalin's role as General Secretary
- Rivalry amongst other contenders

Use p 19-20 for guidance on technique but be careful – it is a different question!

Revision- check your understanding of key points:-

1. What was "**Socialism in One Country**"?
2. What was the **Theory of World Revolution**?
3. Explain why Stalin's job as **General Secretary** strengthened his position.
4. Why was it important to Stalin that **Lenin's testament** was not published?
5. Stalin may not have been as intellectual as his comrades but he was undoubtedly very clever. Look at how he out-manoeuvred his rivals and identify 4 ways in which he was politically astute.

Question C Mark Scheme

This targets:

AO1 (7 marks): Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

AO2 (9 marks): Explain, analyse and make judgements about historical events and periods studied using second-order historical concepts.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1-4	<p>A simple or generalised answer is given, lacking development and organisation (AO2)</p> <p>Limited knowledge of the topic is shown (AO1)</p> <p>The overall judgement is missing or asserted (AO2)</p>
2	5-8	<p>An explanation is given showing limited analysis and with implicit links to the conceptual focus of the question. It shows some development and organisation of material, but a line of reasoning is not sustained (AO2)</p> <p>Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period (AO1)</p> <p>The overall judgement is given but its justification is asserted or insecure (AO2)</p> <p>No access to Level 2 for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</p>
3	9-12	<p>An explanation is given, showing some analysis that is mainly directed at the conceptual focus of the question. It shows a line of reasoning that is generally sustained, although some passages may lack coherence and organisation (AO2)</p> <p>Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features of characteristics of the period studied. (AO1)</p> <p>The overall judgement is given with some justification, but some criteria selected for the required judgement are left implicit or not validly applied (AO2)</p> <p>No access to Level 3 for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</p>
4	13-16	<p>An analytical explanation is given that is directed consistently at the conceptual focus of the question, showing a line of reasoning that is coherent, sustained and logically structured (AO2)</p> <p>Accurate and relevant knowledge is precisely selected to address the question directly, showing wide ranging knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. (AO1)</p> <p>Criteria for the required judgement are justified and applied in the process of reaching an overall judgement. (AO2)</p> <p>No access to Level 4 for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</p>

Stalin's Economic Policy

From 1928, Stalin made huge changes to the economy.

He ended NEP and modernised industry through a series of **Five Year Plans**.

Agriculture was **collectivised**.

Read source A p 22.

What reasons does Stalin give for the changes to the economy?

extension- how reliable is this source as evidence of his reasons?

Why did Stalin introduce changes to the economy in 1928?

Cut out the factors and sort them into 4 categories. One category might only have 1 factor. Give a title to each category and stick them in on the next page.

Which was his most important reason – Explain why it was more important than the others!

Why did Stalin Collectivise Agriculture 1928-41? p 31-34

To produce more food!

In 1927-8 there was a **grain procurement crisis**. The peasants were only growing enough for themselves as the price the state paid them for their surplus grain was so low. Some withheld grain to push the price up. This led to food shortages in the towns and rationing. Stalin blamed this partly on the backwardness of farming on small plots.

He assumed that larger state-run farms would enable more food to be produced because modern methods could be introduced such as **machinery** (tractors and combine harvesters), chemical fertilisers. It would be easier to procure grain from state run collectives than 1000s of small farms.

Stalin wanted to Industrialise:-collectivisation would enable this:-

1. More grain could be grown to _____ to pay for industrialisation.
2. Mechanisation of agriculture would release more workers for industry.
3. Industrialisation would mean more food would be needed to feed the _____

Switching to collectivisation would give Stalin greater **Control**

1. _____ would be ousted from power.
2. **All Peasants would effectively be controlled by the state.** Previously the Party had very little control over the countryside.

Agriculture under NEP did not keep to Communist Ideals p 32-33

Destroy the Kulaks!

Which do you think was his main reason?

What was Collectivisation?

The plan was to amalgamate the 25 million small peasant holdings into much larger units.

These collectivised farms would be the equivalent of 50 –100 peasant holdings.



- The collective farms were called **Kolkhozy** (*singular Kolkhoz*)
- The peasants would no longer own land privately. They had to work set hours and were fined if they broke rules.
- The Kolkhoz would be run by a party official from the town
- The state would provide the seed and tell the peasants what to grow e.g flax which was needed for industry.
- Large scale methods of production could then be introduced (tractors were very rare under NEP because most of the plots were too small)
- **Motor Tractor Stations (MTS)** were set up which hired out machinery to the collectives in their area.
- Each Kolkhoz was given a quota of grain that they had to produce and give to the state at a set price (low). They kept what was left. The money was shared among them but of course it wasn't very much.
- There were also **Sovkhozy**, which were larger farms owned by the state – all the produce went to the state and the workers were paid wages. However, these were not successful and few were set up.
- The Kolkhozy and Sovkhozy would also provide food, fuel, clothing, housing, schools and hospitals for the peasants.

Homework task

Produce an advert/poster to show peasants the benefits of collectivisation.

Try to get a range of benefits in your advert. You are welcome to use images from the internet as long as you use them creatively instead of simply copy/paste.

How was Collectivisation achieved ?

Stalin initially hoped peasants would see the advantages of collectivisation and would voluntarily form collectives. Despite huge propaganda efforts, this didn't work; peasants refused to join collectives and food shortages worsened.

[Why did the peasants resist collectivisation?](#) read p34

Why would Kulaks oppose collectivisation the most?

1928 Stalin enforced collectivisation

Because so many resisted collectivisation, the state resorted to force. Brigades of communist party activists from the towns were sent out into the countryside to enforce collectivisation. They accused peasants of **hoarding grain** to push up the prices; they seized grain from the peasants who retaliated with violence. 100's of party officials were assassinated.

Peasants also resisted by **killing their livestock** and **refusing to plant crops**.

Why did the peasants kill their livestock according to this source?

“stock was slaughtered every night... Bulls, sheep, pigs, even cows were slaughtered as well as cattle for breeding. “Kill! It's not ours any more...kill! they will take it away anyway...kill! you won't get any meat in the Kolkhoz” And they killed. They ate until they could eat no more...”

- 50% Cows
 - 47% horses
 - 60 % sheep/goats
 - 50 % pigs.
- were slaughtered 1929-33

This not only affected the long term size of herds and dairy products but also ploughing, as there weren't enough tractors to replace all the draught animals.

1929 Dekulakisation

In 1929, resistance to collectivisation & food shortages let Stalin to launch “all out war” on the peasants. He blamed the food shortages on the **Kulaks** (richer peasants).

Stalin launched a policy of **Dekulakisation**. He sent in armed squads to arrest “Kulaks”. He hoped that the poorer peasants would join in the class-struggle against the richer peasants as the poorer peasants would have less to give up when joining a collective.

He said the Kulaks are

“ ***the sworn enemies of the collective farm movement.***”

We are to eliminate them as a class”

There was no clear definition of a Kulak so the Party officials simply defined it in practice as anyone who resisted collectivisation.

Once branded a Kulak, everything you owned was confiscated. Kulak families were loaded onto trains and sent to remote places like Siberia or used as slave labour. Those who resisted were shot. Sometimes whole villages were rounded up and sent by train to labour camps.

Conditions for deportees

Soon mass transportation of Kulaks took place. In unheated railway cars, thousands of peasants with their wives and children went east to the Urals, Kazakhstan and Siberia. Many thousands died en route from hunger, cold and disease. In winter, during a severe frost, a large group of Kulaks were taken away in wagons 300 km away. One, unable to endure the crying of a baby sucking its mother’s empty breast, grabbed the child and dashed its head against a tree.

What does the author of this source feel about this process?

I am an old Bolshevik. I worked in the underground against the Tsar and then I fought in the Civil War. Did I do all that in order that I should now surround villages with machine guns and order my men to fire indiscriminately into crowds of peasants. Oh no, no!

See also source H p 35.

Many died en route. They were taken to inhospitable places without any provisions so many others died of starvation.

Approximately 10 million were branded Kulaks and shot or deported 1930-32.

Thinking point!!!! *How had these Kulaks got richer in the first place????
In what way might getting rid of them be counter-productive for agriculture?*

“One acre and a cow” 1935

Stalin allowed each peasant to have a small garden plot of their own and keep a few animals. Plot sizes varied but this has come to be known as “**one acre and a cow**”

However, this was not good for the collective! Peasants worked harder on their own plots- *why might this be?*

The private plots were very productive producing most of the Soviet Union’s potatoes, meat and milk by 1937.

By 1932, 62% of farms were collectivised.
By 1941, the process was complete.

Motor (or machine) **Tractor Stations** make notes using p 36

Results of Collectivisation.

How successful was Collectivisation?

Use the chart p 36 to plot a graph. Use 5 colours, one for each category. Make sure you fill in the key!

Key:-

Grain

State procurement of grain

Export of grain

Cattle

Pigs



Activity p 36.

Initially, food production fell causing a famine by 1932-3:-

What caused the famine?

- a) At first, collectivisation was carried out too hurriedly; no proper surveys were carried out and no clear idea was given of how they were to be run.
- b) The people who ran the Kolkhoz were often Party Cadres from the city who had little idea about farming. Crops were not sown in time and not harvested properly.
- c) Peasants couldn't operate the machinery. (possibly deliberate?)
- d) There weren't enough tractors and they were poor quality- many broke down.
- e) Peasants were reluctant to ask MTS officials for advice as the MTS were used as OGPU (secret police) centres.
- f) Peasant resistance –
 - *why was there less meat/dairy?*
 - didn't work very hard on collective land.
- g) The little grain the collectives had was seized by the Brigades to feed town workers and export.
- h) The hardest working peasants were removed under de-Kulakisation.

By 1932, there was a dreadful **famine** – possibly as many as 10 million died across the USSR 1932-3. Cannibalism returned.

The famine was particularly bad in the **Ukraine** *why is this particularly ironic?*

Read the section on this in your textbook p 37=38.

The Ukrainians wanted autonomy so Stalin acted particularly ruthlessly to wipe out opposition. 5 million Ukrainians died.

This famine was “man-made”

Yet Stalin refused to accept foreign aid; in fact he was **still exporting grain!**

What does this suggest about Stalin?

Peasants tried to leave collectives to work in towns. To stop this, the state controlled movement by introducing internal passports in 1932. This effectively tied the peasants to the collectives.

The promised benefits of schools, hospitals etc. were not prioritised.

The successes of Collectivisation

Food was procured for the workers in towns and to export to pay for industrialisation.

Eventually mechanisation enabled more food to be produced.



19 million peasants were moved to cities to work in factories

Collectivisation brought greater control to Stalin:-

- The Kulaks (class enemy/opponents of collectivisation) had been destroyed
- He had control over the peasants. They had to obey the chairman of the collective (Party member) & internal passports controlled their movement.
- The MTS became a secret base for Stalin's Secret Police so they could watch the peasants.
- Collectivisation gave him the opportunity to eliminate opponents
 - in the Party (Bukharin)
 - Nationalists in the Ukraine
 - the Church. (He claimed that peasants were hoarding food in Churches and thus used it as an excuse to close 1000's of churches. He hoped to break peasants' allegiance to the Church.)

Summarise the impact of collectivisation by doing your own version of the balance sheet p 39.

Failures	successes

Question B Examination Technique

This question will ask you to explain two effects of an event or development.

The question will always be phrased as:

Explain two effects of..... (8)

This question requires analysis of consequence and use of knowledge to support that analysis.

You will need to **show a link between the effect and its outcome**, using phrases like: *this led to, as a result of this, this meant that*.

You can only obtain maximum 4 marks if you write about only one effect.
You do not need to link your effects.
You have **12 minutes** for this question.

How to structure your response:

One effect of was.... This was because... this meant that ...this led to...

Another effect ofwas..... This was because..., this meant that ...this led to...

Question B Mark Scheme

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1-2	Simple comment is offered about consequence (s) (AO2) Generalised information about the topic is included, showing limited knowledge and understanding of the period (AO1)
2	3-5	Features of the period are analysed to explain consequences (AO2) Specific information about the topic is added to support the explanation (AO1)
3	6-8	Features of the period are analysed to explain consequences and show how they led to outcomes (AO2) Accurate and relevant knowledge is included to support the explanation, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied (AO1)

For homework :-

1) try this B question:

Explain two effects of Collectivisation (8 marks)

2) Do this C question:

‘Collectivisation was a catastrophic policy which brought great suffering to the people of the USSR.’ How far do you agree? Explain your answer

- **Dekulakisation**
- **Famine 1932**

(16 marks)

Write 3 well-developed paragraphs-

- Begin the 1st paragraph with the factor “***In the short term Collectivisation was catastrophic for the peasants...***”
- paragraph on **Dekulakisation**
- paragraph on **Famine**
- develop each one with explanation “***this was because.. This led to..***”
- The third paragraph could begin “***However Collectivisation was not totally catastrophic.***”

- Link the factors – “***This led to... However... Moreover***”

The link should be clarified in **a conclusion**.

Vocab check:- write your own explanation for these terms:-

- ❖ Collectivisation
- ❖ Kolkhoz
- ❖ Dekulakisation
- ❖ MTS

Industrialisation.

Although Stalin had opposed rapid Industrialisation when Kamenev, Zinoviev and Trotsky had advocated it, once he was rid of them he launched a massive industrialisation programme. (Animal Farm “The Windmill”)

Stalin’s policy of **Socialism in One Country** was slightly altered; Socialism could survive in USSR without World Revolution but the **USSR needed to industrialise in order to defend herself against her capitalist enemies.**



Features of the Industrial changes.

Stalin created a **command economy**.

All industry was **Nationalised** (taken over by the State)

The State planning agency, **Gosplan** set **targets** for all factories and mines in a series of **Five Year Plans**. It was based in Moscow and soon employed about 500,000 people.

The First Five Year Plan 1928-32

The first plan emphasised **heavy industry**, aiming to double or even treble output

- Coal & oil
- Iron & steel
- electrical power
- engineering, especially tractors

Targets were set for each sector. Stalin was so encouraged by the apparent success that he revised the targets twice.

New mass production methods were introduced into factories copied from Henry Ford's car factories in the US.

Existing industrial sites such as Moscow and Leningrad (new name of Petrograd) were expanded.

The USSR had resources in remote areas that weren't being exploited so Gosplan planned new industrial areas in the Urals, Siberia, Kuzbass and the Volga River. New cities such as **Magnitogorsk** were built from scratch. [See map p 29.](#)

Vast projects were undertaken such as the construction of the **Dnieper Dam** in Ukraine which provided hydro-electric power.

Shock brigades were sent into factories/building sites to show how hard you could work. Members of the **Komsomol** (youth group) volunteered in their summer holidays.

Many of the workers on these projects were prisoners arrested during the purges or collectivisation; they were used as slave labourers.

Private trade and working for someone else were declared illegal. Shopkeepers, barbers, café owners and tradesmen were forced out of business. They were criticised in the press, harassed by the authorities and many were arrested.

Workers were formerly
Peasants

They lacked the skills necessary; many were illiterate.

The targets were unrealistic

Gosplan made no allowances for local circumstances

Party Officials in Gosplan had little knowledge of industry

They produced targets to please Stalin

He brought forward the end of the plan by one year.

- Gosplan was slow – factories might wait months for the right man to repair a machine.
- factories struggled to get right resources

Problems during the First Plan

The emphasis was on quantity so quality was neglected

Managers resorted to lying or other methods; heavy materials might be added to bulk up the weight to meet targets.

No criticism was allowed

Failure to meet targets was seen as sabotage

Engineers and experts were accused of being wreckers – blamed for breaking machinery

Anyone who criticised the plans was put on trial and /or executed or sent to a Gulag.

They were replaced by inexperienced people

As a result of lack of criticism, mistakes worsened e.g. duplication, waste & inefficiency

Terrible living and working conditions.

How successful was the First Five Year Plan?

Despite the problems and the fact that many targets were not met, the plan was successful in several ways:-

Copy the bullet points from the table p 25

The Second Five Year Plan 1933-7

- Heavy industry was still the main emphasis but targets were more realistic so that quality improved e.g. tractors.
- New chemical industries would be developed. e.g. fertiliser.
- Transport links by rail and canal would be constructed e.g. the Moscow metro, the Moscow Volga Canal & the **White Sea Canal**. *see p 29*
- Some consumer goods would be made (however this sector didn't receive enough investment)

The 3rd Five Year Plan 1938-41

(Initially some factories were to switch to consumer goods, however, this was

Aim = heavy industry and armaments production.
abandoned as the threat from Hitler grew).

By 1940, 33% government investment was spent on defence and 9 new aircraft factories were established.

The plan was undermined by the purges due to the arrest of experienced managers and Gosplan officials.

The plan was cut short by the German invasion 1941.

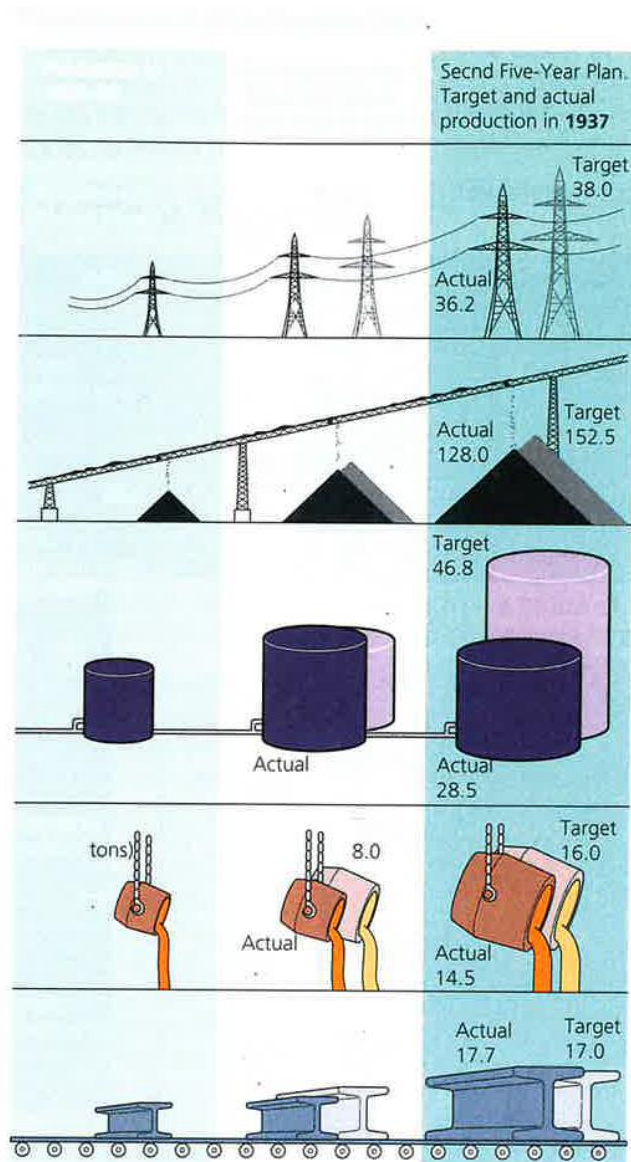
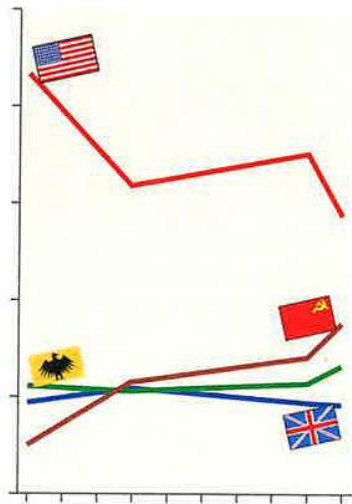
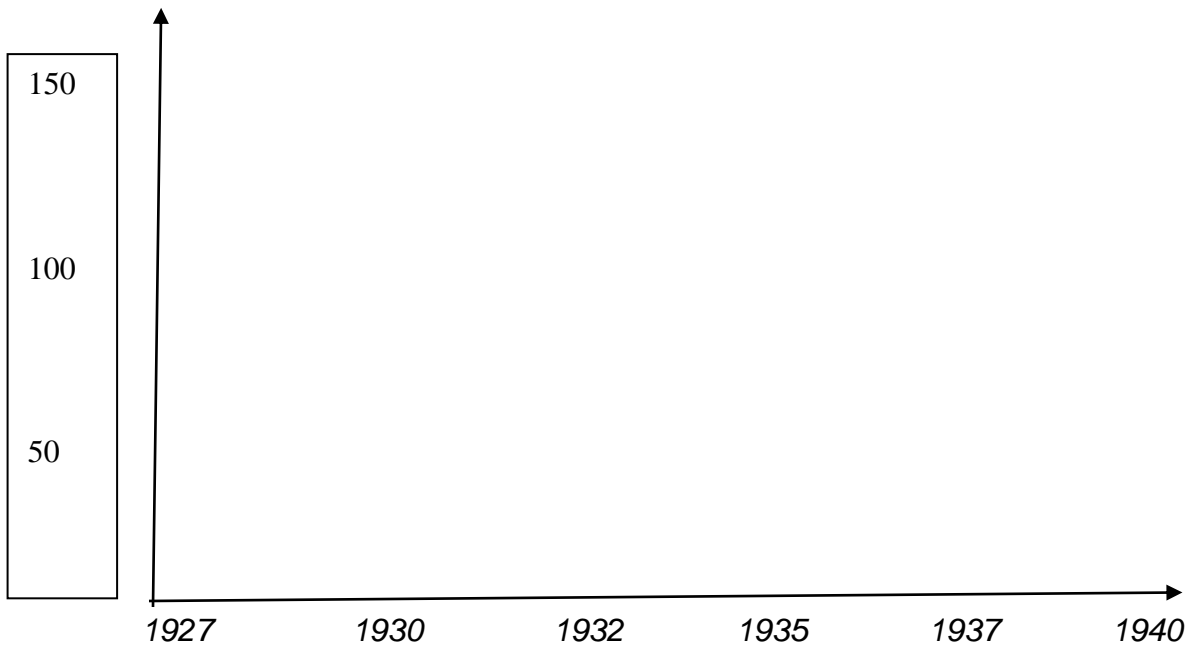
Industrial production rose by 400%.

The USSR overtook Britain and France as Industrial countries and became 2nd only to USA.

(also note that other countries had been in depression in the early 1930s.)

Key:-
 Coal
 Steel
 Oil
 Electricity
 (million kwh)

Use the table p 28 to plot a graph of production levels 1927-40.



How did Stalin encourage greater production?

1. **The state encouraged more women** to work by providing creches, childcare, canteens and laundries. Unfortunately there were not enough crèche places, so they were over-crowded.

80% of the **new** workers were women; by 1940 women made up 41% of the workforce in heavy industry. They were encouraged to work in all areas; many women went to university to be doctors and engineers etc.

2. **Propaganda** see pictures p 26

What is the message of this cartoon?



3. 1935 **Stakhanov** “hero of Socialist Labour”. P 25-6

Stakhanov mined 102 tonnes of coal in 6 hours = 14 time the normal output.

He was rewarded with a month's pay, a new apartment and a holiday.

How was Stakhanov's achievement used to increase production?



What were the problems with the movement?

The movement was quietly dropped as a result.

What was admitted in the 1980's?

4. Incentives were offered to encourage workers to produce more:

- Subsidised holidays and better homes for productive workers
- Medals e.g Order of Lenin
- Skilled workers were paid more
- Pay was linked to productivity (**piece rates**) so people had to work harder.

5. Strict controls and punishments.

In 1931, **Targets** were set for each worker. They had to keep a **record book** logging lateness etc and their output; their **wages were docked** if they failed to meet their targets. They also had **internal passports** to reduce freedom to seek better jobs. Police could ask to see this at any time and if you were in the wrong place, you could be arrested. Lateness or Absenteeism could result in a cut in wages or dismissal. "Slackers" were sent **to Labour camps** and the death penalty was imposed for stealing state property. Trade unions were restricted. Managers would sack workers & set wages without the approval of the unions.

Working Conditions

These were often harsh, especially to begin with.

- 7 day weeks and long hours were common (in the early years) and Sunday was not a day off.
- Basic safety standards were ignored. *Read source B p 71.*
- Pay was low; the value of wages fell by 50%. Wages were further reduced by fines.
- Factory life was rigidly disciplined (see above)

But- there was no unemployment even during the depression era when Western countries suffered huge unemployment.

Political prisoners were used as **Slave Labour** on the harshest projects.

e.g. **White Sea Canal** -12,000 slave workers died from the appalling conditions.

eye-witness during the building of the **Belomor Canal** in the 1930's

At the end of the day there were corpses left on the worksite. Two were frozen back to back leaning against each other. At night, sledges went out and collected them. In summer, bones remained from corpses which had not been removed in time.

Magnitogorsk was a new industrial centre built from scratch in a remote uninhabited region.

In 1929, there were 50,000 workers (mostly political prisoners like kulaks) grouped in teams, who worked around the clock in shifts, sharing bunks in tents with no heating in freezing conditions.

See the picture p 70 and read the text below.

How did the USSR achieve this increase in industrial production?

The Social Impact of the Five Year Plans

Shortages of Housing

From 1929-41, 19 million Soviet peasants moved to the cities. The population of Moscow increased from 2.2 million to 4.1 million in 7 years.

The state did not prioritise building new housing so housing was **over-crowded**. Often there was one family per room, sharing the kitchen and bathroom with other families. The average apartment size fell from 5.5 square metres in 1930 to 4 square metres in 1940. Those waiting for a flat might live in a coal shed or under-stair cupboard.

Badly built, with doors and windows of unseasoned wood which could not be shut properly. Unpapered and thinly white washed walls, these two rooms were home. By American standards we were living in a squalid tenement house but by soviet Russian standards we were housed almost as communist aristocrats. We not only had two rooms to live in but had the luxury of gas for cooking. Best of all we had a bathroom with a lavatory which we had to share with only one other family.

Freda Utlej, an American communist who lived in the USSR in the 1930s

Shortages of Consumer goods

There were shortages of **consumer goods** such as clothes, shoes and furniture. This not only meant prices rising but also long queues outside shops. Standing for hours in queues became a feature of everyday life.

Read p 70 "Everyday items":-

Food was in short supply and bread was rationed until 1935; queues for food were normal too e.g. from 2 a.m. even after rationing ended.

Also the Black Market thrived.

Joke:- Why are soviet citizens like Adam and Eve?
(Clue – where did they live? What did they wear?)

Benefits for the Soviet people:-

- ❖ Free schools and colleges to educate the workers and produce experts
- ❖ work places provided work clothes, canteens and some provided childcare and laundries. *Read source D p 72.*
- ❖ free health care; more hospitals and doctors
- ❖ paid holidays
- ❖ insurance in case of accident
- ❖ sport and leisure facilities *see p 70-71*

In the countryside, the peasants lacked the facilities town workers enjoyed but at least they could grow food on their plots.

- ❖ unemployment fell
- ❖ higher wages for more work
- ❖ rewards for those in favour
- ❖ eventually, many had higher living standards
- ❖ new housing was built (even though not fast enough)
- ❖ electricity/drainage were brought to areas that previously had none
- ❖ libraries.

(e.g. Magnitogorsk eventually had 250,000 inhabitants with brick built houses, paved roads, electricity, drains, several factories, shops, schools and a hospital.)

Family Life

The Position of women. Read textbook p 74

Lenin had declared that women were equal.

Add some of the other changes using p 75.

What was the unintended impact of these changes in the 1920's & 30's?

Gangs of un-parented children roamed the streets, begging & stealing Stalin blamed this (and the declining birth rate) on family breakup and in 1936 brought in a new **Family Code** (part of “the Great Retreat”) which emphasised parental roles:-

When we talk of strengthening the Soviet family we mean to fight against wrong attitudes towards marriage, women & children. “Free love” and a disorderly sex life have nothing in common with Socialist principles or normal behaviour of a Soviet citizen. The outstanding citizens of our country, the best of Soviet youth, are almost always devoted to their families.

Pravda 1936

To tackle you crime:-

- divorce was made more difficult; married couples received family allowance
- divorced fathers had to help maintain their children
- the police were given more powers to deal with youth crime including the death sentence
- parents were fined if their children caused trouble

to increase the birth rate:-

- Abortion was no longer allowed
- Contraception was harder to obtain
- Being gay was illegal
- Stalin encouraged women to have more children by offering medals and taxing unmarried people more

Women and work

Under NEP the reforms promised to women e.g. of equal pay and childcare, were slow to develop. Consequently the number of women working did not rise and they still tended to be in unskilled jobs like textiles and domestic service.

You have seen that women were encouraged to work in the Five Year Plans with considerable success. By 1940 there were 13 million women working. [See the pictures/text p 77.](#)

However they still battled prejudice and resentment.

- Pay was not equal- women received 60-65% of men’s wages for the same job
- Top jobs usually went to men.
- Working women were still expected to look after the children and home

Very few women were given political roles due to continuing prejudice. *read p 78.*

What did the closure of the Zhenotdel probably signify?

What was the Housewives movement and what did it signify?

How were the lives of the people affected?

Task:- In pairs, devise a script for an interview with someone from the category assigned to you. One of you is the interviewer, the other is the interviewee. Your script should explore how life has changed under the Five Year Plans, for better or worse. Use your notes & textbook pp 69-78.

(we will look at **ethnic minorities** later when we do the Purges; however please note that they could be relevant to an essay on the lives of the people in the USSR)

Use pp 69-78 textbook **and your notes** to summarise how the different classes and groups were affected by **Stalin's** changes:-

	Benefits	Limitations or disadvantages
Party officials	Special apartment blocks Special shops selling luxuries private estates, exclusive holidays & schools	
Peasants P71 & 73		

Town Workers 69-72		
Women See p74- 78 Textbook		

Plan the C question p 79

How successful was Industrialisation

Use pp 24-39 & 69-79 textbook and your notes.

	Achievement	not successful
economic		
social		

Judgement.

Homework

Try this c question:-

“The main effect of Stalin’s 3 Five Year Plans on the Soviet Union was the rapid development of Soviet industry”. Do you agree?

You may use

- The development of Soviet industry
- Transport links

Vocab check:-

Write your own definition for

- ❖ Stakhanovite Movement
- ❖ Gosplan
- ❖ Magnitogorsk
- ❖ Five Year Plan

Review this section using p 40.



Question A examination technique See also p 41-2.

In this question you will analyse a secondary extract for the impression given by the author.

You should spend only 9 minutes on this question.

It will always be phrased as:

What impression does the author give about....? (6)

This question requires you to make an inference from what the extract says to show what impression the author **set out to create**. You should be aware of the fact that the language, tone and content are the product of **deliberate** choices by the author. The author wishes to convey a particular view.

You could begin by thinking about whether the author sets out to create a **positive** or **negative** impression. It might be neither- in which case try to summarise the impression it creates.

You could then go on to consider **how** the author does this:-i.e. s/he has deliberately crafted the impression using techniques e.g.

- Language and tone
- Selection of information
- Points of emphasis

Begin your answer “**The impression the author is trying to give about the overall** (success of the Five Year Plan...)

This is because (language and tone)

Moreover the author has chosen (content) **or has left out**

This suggest that

The author has emphasised

Mark scheme:

This is assessing AO4 where you have to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations in the context of historical events studied.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
1	1-2	Simple valid comment of offered about an impression Or Simple comprehension of the extract is shown by the selection or paraphrase of some content to imply an impression.
2	3-4	Answer offers valid comment that infers an impression. Comprehension and some analysis of the extract is shown by selecting material to support the inference.
3	5-6	Answer explains the impression given, analysing the author's selection and treatment of material in the extract to support the explanation.

Look at the example in your text book p 27.

Look at the example in your text book p 41.

Try this A question:

What impression does the author give about the impact of the First Five Year Plan on the Russian economy and society. (6 marks)

From a History textbook:

The First Five Year Plan concentrated on heavy industry such as coal, steel and iron. The 'new' industries such as electricity, motor vehicles, chemicals and rubber were also targeted but consumer industries such as textiles and household goods were neglected.

Stalin was encouraged by the apparent success of the plan and he revised the targets twice leading to tractors breaking down in fields due to the focus on quantity over quality.

Do the question p 73

Stalin's Dictatorship

Stalin's Dictatorship has been called **totalitarian**, meaning controlling all aspects of life. We have seen how he controlled the economy. He also tried to control other aspects of life and purged all opponents

The Purges

Read p 43.

The purges were the expulsion of opponents and potential opponents from all areas of society; government, army, industry, agriculture & the Arts. Millions of people were arrested, sent to gulags or killed.

Phase 1 Economic purges & trials:-

- 1928 The **Shakhty Trial**
55 engineers were put on trial, accused of sabotage. They were made scapegoats for economic failures.
- 1929 **Dekulakisation** purged opponents of _____.
- 1930 More specialists were accused of sabotage.
30% of the Secretariat were removed.
- 1932** **Ryutin Trial**- Ryutin criticised Stalin's economic policy of rapid industrialisation & collectivisation, calling Stalin an "evil genius."
See p 45 source B

Ryutin & thousands of others were ejected from the Party and Stalin demanded his execution. However, the Politburo (including Kirov) had refused to sanction the execution of Ryutin. Stalin had been over-ruled. He was not absolute leader after all.

He needed an excuse to rid himself of all opponents.

(1932 Stalin's wife committed suicide *see p 46*)

Extension research: You will be fascinated to learn more about Stalin's wives and children...

2 The Purge of “Old Bolsheviks”

Old Bolsheviks were party leaders at the time of the October Revolution- *why might Stalin want to remove them?*

The Murder of Kirov 1934

Kirov was a popular member of the Politburo who had disagreed with Stalin and urged that industrialisation be slowed down. He was leader of the Party in Leningrad. In **1934** at the **17th Party Congress**- Kirov's speech received an ovation; **the delegates appeared to prefer Kirov to Stalin!**



In December 1934, Kirov was shot dead by Nikolayev.

Read p 44.

See p.45. Why do some people think that Stalin ordered the murder of Kirov? What are the suspicious circumstances?

Stalin's nephew 1990

Stalin had nothing to do with the murder. My mother was with him when they phoned and informed him of Kirov's death. She had never seen Stalin in the state he was in after receiving the phone call.

Olga Shatunovskaya, member of the 1955 enquiry into Kirov's death.

The secret police latched onto the idea that Stalin was dissatisfied after he wrote them a note saying "I am ready for anything now. I hate Kirov." And they organised the murder. Of course when Stalin found out that some senior Party members had asked Kirov to become leader, he decided to remove him.

Theory	Points in support	Counter points
<p>1. Nikolayev acted alone</p>		
<p>2. Stalin secretly ordered the murder</p>		<p>No one at the time accused Stalin of the murder, even Trotsky.</p>
<p>3. The NKVD (new name for the OGPU) plotted it</p>		

When Kirov was murdered in 1934, Stalin used this as the pretext for arresting 1,000s of party members, accusing them of conspiring with **Trotsky to murder Kirov and Stalin's government.**

The OGPU were renamed **NKVD** (see table p 48) and given extra powers to arrest and execute.

1935 Zinoviev & Kamenev were tried for plotting Kirov's murder and to being **Trotskyites**. They confessed and were sent to Labour Camps. This was the first stage of the purge of the Old Bolsheviks.

Thousands of others were shot or sent to Labour Camps

3 **“Yezhovschina”** or **“The Terror”** 1936–8

This was the most intense phase when millions were arrested. It is also the period of the main **Moscow Show Trials**

- **Yezhov** was the new Head of the **NKVD**
- Millions were forced to confess to ludicrous charges.
- The prominent leaders, especially **Old Bolsheviks**, were subjected to **Show Trials** then **shot** e.g. Kamenev and Zinoviev (1936) and **Bukharin** (1938). No one was immune from arrest.
- Terror extended to everyone- teachers, managers, workers, writers...
- Nationalist & **religious** leaders were imprisoned and killed; whole ethnic groups were deported.

1937-8 **The Purge of the Army**

1938 Stalin called a halt to the purges; he blamed the NKVD which was then purged. Yezhov was replaced by **Beria**. Yezhov was shot in 1940.

Read Extend your knowledge box p 54.

(1940 Trotsky was murdered in Mexico)

The Reasons for the Purges

The pretext (official reason) Immediately after the murder of Kirov, Stalin claimed there was a plot to overthrow his government led by Trotsky and his accomplices.

To get rid of political opposition p 45.

Bukharin said in 1936 “*Stalin is convinced that he is greater than everyone else. If someone speaks better than he does, that man is for it. Stalin will not let him live, because that man is a constant reminder that he, Stalin, is not the first and best. He is not a man, but a devil*”

Stalin doubted he was in total control because

Kirov’s murder gave the opportunity to

To secure total control P 45-6

- Create a **climate of fear** to make everyone obey him
- Control over influential people e.g. **artists, writers, religious and nationalist leaders**
- **control over the Army** (purged 1937-8) p 50-51

Stalin's personality p 46

Terror economics p 46

Lenin's legacy ? p 47

Now try the c question p 47.

The Key Features of the Purges.

The NKVD (new name for the secret police - Cheka/OGPU -see p 48)

After the murder of Kirov, the NKVD were given the power to arrest anyone, without charge or trial.

1936-38, the head of the NKVD was **Yezhov**. P 48

They often came in the middle of the night to arrest people.

Make a few brief notes on the experience of Osip and Julia Mandelstam using source sheet D

Many people denounced their neighbours/colleagues to the NKVD.
Why might they do this? See p 51

Add another reason from top of source sheet D

*Use the first source on source sheet E to give examples of the lengths the NKVD went to when **searching** for illicit material:*

Use source sheet E (1st source & middle/right hand column) & p 51 to find examples of reasons why someone might be arrested:

Use source sheet E (middle/left hand column) bottom of p49 & the source below to find how they got people to confess to crimes they hadn't done.

Evgenia Ginsburg ***They started to work on me again. I was put on the "conveyor belt". The interrogators worked in shifts. I didn't. Seven days without sleep or food. Relaxed and fresh, they passed before me as a dream. The object was to wear out the nerves, weaken the body, break resistance and force the prisoner to sign whatever is required. Others confessed for the sake of their families and some most especially Bukharin, confessed as a last service to the Communist Party.***

Also read source F p 51.

Another method of gathering evidence against a prisoner was planting a **stool pigeon** in the prisoner's cell. Find out what this was!

Labour Camps “Gulags”.

1928 30,000 inmates; 1938 8 million.

Use your text book p 52-3, source sheet C , the bottom source on source sheet E and the bottom source on source sheet D to describe conditions and treatment in the prison camp.

The Moscow Show Trials 1936-8

A show trial is a highly publicised trial whose outcome was predetermined, in other words, the trial was just for show! Note that not many people had a trial.

Use source page F /text book p 48 to explain

a) which sort of people were put on Show Trial and why? What were the reasons for the Show Trials?

Why was it important to Stalin that they confessed to the charges.

1936 The Trial of the Sixteen –(Kamenev & Zinoviev. *Read p 16*)

1937 The Trial of the Seventeen (Trotsky's former allies)

1938 The Trial of the Twenty One (Bukharin)

What were they charged with? Use source sheet F, p49 and the source below:-

Fitzroy MacLean British diplomat who observed the trials:-

The prisoners were charged with every possible crime including high treason, murder, spying and all sorts of sabotage. They were accused of plotting to wreck industry and agriculture, to assassinate Stalin and break up the Soviet Union. Some were accused of betraying the Soviet cause even before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. One after another, using the same words, they admitted their guilt. And yet what they said seemed to bear no relation to reality.

p 49 Note the outlandish additional charge for Bukharin-

(Read the extend your knowledge box p 50)

The accused often did not know the charge until the trial itself. They were not allowed a defence. The prosecutor, **Vyshinsky**, aroused the audience, which included many NKVD, to hysteria. *See p 49 near the top.*

The confessions were written by the NKVD and implicated other people.

Bukharin did his best in the trial to show that the charges were ridiculous.

Some claim that Stalin watched from behind a dark screen. (*why might he prefer that his presence was secret?*)

How did the press report the trials ? (source sheet F)

What added to the suffering of the families? (source sheet F)

Read source sheet B; what was so unfair about Ginzburg's trial?

The Purge of the Party

Make notes p 50.

The Purge of the Army

Why did Stalin purge the army? p 50-51

In 1937 many army officers were arrested and charged with plotting with Germany and Japan.

*Make notes of Marshal **Tukhachevsky***

14/16 army commanders were shot as well as all the admirals.
Half the junior officers - 35,000 – were arrested.

The Purge of the wider population.

Read source G p 51

Make notes p 51-2

The Impact of the Purges

Numbers of Victims

1 -1.5 million were executed:

7 - 8 million sent to labour camps; 2 million died in the labour camps

Approximately 1 million members of the Party were purged

By 1939, only 4 out of 163 bishops remained free

Probably 25% citizens of Leningrad ended up in Labour Camps

1,108 out of 1,996 delegates of **17th Party Congress** were arrested

**98 out of 139 members of the Central committee were arrested.
Of Lenin's Politburo of 7, only one remained.**

**Who were
the victims?**

p.48 & add from the board

Complete the table on the next page using p 54-5.

Mark favourable outcomes with a tick. Indicate with a cross if it weakened the USSR.

Why did many continue to love and trust Stalin throughout this period of terror?



Cultural

Nationalities – Stalin had no sympathy for National groups and in the 1930's he reintroduced Russification to impose Russian culture on non-Russians. Russian became compulsory in schools, army recruits were sent away from their homelands. Any nationalist opponents were purged.

Religion was ridiculed & leaders persecuted; many places of worship were closed.

Artists and writers had to conform to Socialist Realism. Must praise Stalin & the USSR- no criticism allowed. Creativity was stifled.

Political

Economic

Continued supply of slave labour. No opposition to his policies.

But mistakes grew worse as no one dared to criticise.
Innovation as stifled.

Military

Effects of the purges

Human cost

Climate of Fear e.g of the knock in the night

People learned not to trust their neighbour/colleague
Those expelled from the party found it difficult to get a job.
The children of arrested parents might end up on the street.

Activity p 56.

Read the page of jokes; see also source J p 55 and source Q p63.
What points are being made in these jokes?

Homework: Examination Questions:-

- A. What impression does the author give about the impact of the purges on the USSR? (6 marks)

From a History textbook

The USSR was seriously weakened with the loss of its senior officers in the army and navy. The purges undermined much of Stalin's earlier work on building up industry. Able scientists, administrators and engineers were arrested, executed or imprisoned. Every part of Russia was affected and no one, not even Stalin's own family could escape.

- B. Explain two effects of the purges on the USSR (8 marks)
- C. The main impact of Stalin's purges was the removal of opposition to Stalin.
- Removal of opposition
 - Weakening of the Soviet army.

(there are some tips p 66-67)

Further reading

Solzhenitsyn	<i>The Gulag Archipelago.</i>
	<i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i>
Anna Larina	<i>"This I cannot forget"</i>
Orlando Figes	<i>The Whisperers</i>
Simon Sebag Montefiore	<i>"One Night in Winter" and "Sashenka"</i>

Vocab check:- write your definition of

- ❖ Show Trial
- ❖ Gulag/Labour Camp
- ❖ NKVD
- ❖ Purge

Write a brief explanation about each of these people:-

- ❖ Kirov
- ❖ Ryutin
- ❖ Yezhov
- ❖ Vyshinsky

Propaganda, Indoctrination and Censorship

What is **propaganda**?



Why did Stalin use propaganda?

What is **indoctrination**?

What is **censorship**?

What do we mean by **Totalitarianism** *see p 63 extend your knowledge box.*

See the summary diagram p 56
key features of soviet
propaganda.

The Stalin Cult.

Read source L p 58 and this source:-

All thanks to thee, O great educator, Stalin. I love a young woman...all thanks to thee, Stalin. I shall be eternally happy and joyous, all thanks to thee, O great educator, Stalin. Everything belongs to thee, chief of our great country. And when the woman I love presents me with a child, the first word it shall say will be "Stalin".

A writer speaking at the Congress of Soviets 1935

How is Stalin portrayed?

Stalin created a **cult of personality**.

We have seen how Stalin created a cult of personality around Lenin, which included renaming Petrograd "**Leningrad**".

Next he established a cult around himself.

- There were statues and pictures of him everywhere. [Read source A p57](#)
- He was depicted as smiling and loving, meeting ordinary people, opening dams and factories. He was portrayed as a caring leader who saved his people from its enemies.
- Streets, squares etc. were named after him. A city (Tsaritsyn) was renamed "**Stalingrad**".
- Huge rallies were held in his honour so that everyone knew of his successes. People were expected to love and worship him.
- Films, paintings, newspaper articles, music and poetry were produced praising him or his achievements. Poets, journalists and workers tried to outdo each other in describing his incredible qualities. (Read sources on hand out) It was claimed that he was a genius- "**the wisest man in the twentieth century**". He was **never wrong**.



Use your textbook p 57-8 to fill in this table about his supposed qualities:-

	detail
Stalin the Political Genius	
Stalin the great economic planner	
Stalin the Man of the people	
Stalin the Generalissimo	

What were the reasons for the cult of personality? P 59

Most dictators did this!

Art and Culture.

Stalin wanted to ensure that all literature and art served his wishes so he ended the creative freedom encouraged since the October Revolution.

All art, literature and music was carefully monitored by the NKVD. Anything or one who did not give the right message was censored and was not allowed to be published. [See p 62.](#)

Artists and writers had to follow a new style **“Socialist Realism”**:-

- The duty of the writer/artist was to **promote the USSR and communism**, not to question what was happening.
- Art had to be **realistic** (not abstract or distorted) and intelligible to ordinary people.

Themes of books, films and paintings had to be simple and optimistic:-

- Stalin
- Soviet achievements
- Heroic workers
- Happy peasants

[Look at the check list p 59!](#)

[See also the examples on p 60 & 61](#)

Artists had to conform or risk being “an enemy of the state”

Eisenstein was a noted filmmaker who made **Battleship Potemkin** in 1925.



However his later film of the **October Revolution** was censored because it referred to Trotsky.

[Read more about cinema p 61. Do the activity !](#)

Music and Dance

Shostakovich was a composer who at one time was a favourite of Stalin's, but who fell out of favour. *Read the mention of his opera Lady Macbeth p 62.*

Make notes on music and dance using p 60

Literature

Writers had to belong to the Communist Writers' Union.

Those who wrote anything critical e.g. **Mandelstam** were arrested.

See p 62; in what ways was his poem source P attacking Stalin?

Make further notes on literature using p 60

Note- the fact that all newspapers and writing was censored meant that people wouldn't know

Homework:- Examination Questions

A. What impression does the author give about the impact of the cult of Stalin? (6)

Stalin's name and picture were everywhere. Streets and cities were named after him and poems and plays were written about him. Newspapers constantly carried stories of his wonderful achievements and they gave him nicknames such as 'man of steel' and 'the boss'. He created an image of himself as a caring leader whose genius had saved the USSR from its enemies.

B. Explain two effects of the censorship of culture? (8)

Extension research:-

Research the life/work of a writer/composer/artists from the USSR in this era, noticing how their work was affected by Stalin's rule:-

- Shostakovich
- Eisenstein,
- Kozlovsky, (singer)
- Vladimirski (artist)
- Gorky

The New Constitution 1936.

In 1936 (at the height of the purges) Stalin created a new constitution. It was written by Bukharin.

This created a system with two houses of Parliament (**The Supreme Soviet**)

- ❖ **The Soviet of the Union** -elected by all citizens in secret ballots– one deputy for 300,000 voters every 4 years.
- ❖ **The Soviet of the Nationalities** (representatives from each Republic)

The Constitution also guaranteed many freedoms and rights –

- *freedom of the press*
- *freedom of religion*
- *freedom from arrest without trial.*

Add some of the rights from figure 3.5 p 61

Stalin claimed this was “**the most democratic**” constitution. He encouraged ordinary citizens to discuss its terms.

However this was a façade; in reality

- The Supreme Soviet met for only a few days a year; real power lay with the party which was controlled by its Politburo.
- Only Communists approved by the Party could stand for election
- All Communists had to do what the leader of the Party told them, so Stalin controlled them.
- Only approved newspapers could be published.

In what other major way was the constitution only a façade? (remember it was produced in 1936!)

Why did Stalin produce it? p 61

- 1) He was attempting to appeal to _____. It made him look like a _____.
- 2) Stalin wanted to improve the poor image of the USSR abroad because he wanted an alliance with the _____ countries, Britain and France, against _____.

Indoctrination of Young people.

Remind yourself about how the Communists had initially changed education- read the paragraph beginning "By 1924 ..." p 79

What had been the impact of this approach? See p 80

Stalin believed the experimentation had been a disaster; in order to **industrialise**, he needed schools and universities to produce disciplined, hard-working and technically skilled students. He also wanted to use schools to indoctrinate young people.

Therefore many more schools and universities were built

Stalin put an end to the educational experiments of the earlier Bolshevik years and restored rigid discipline, corporal punishment, exams, homework and uniforms in schools. Pupils had to sit arms folded, facing the teacher. Rote learning was re-introduced. Pupils had to attend school until the age of 15.

Stalin used schools to produce a new Soviet citizen **totally loyal to him**. Pupils were **indoctrinated**.

A national curriculum was introduced and government-written textbooks.

Pupils were taught

- to obey
- that Stalin was the Great Leader,
- the Stalinist version of History (below)
- There was a strong focus on maths, science, technology and engineering to help produce soviet experts and reduce the USSR's dependence on foreign experts.
- communist ideology

Rules 1 of the 20 rules of behaviour. Pupils had to learn these by heart.

It is the duty of each school child to acquire knowledge persistently so as to become an educated and cultured citizen and to be of the greatest possible service to his country.

Teachers who were not obedient were arrested.

History was rewritten.

History textbooks and encyclopaedias were destroyed or altered to reflect **the Soviet Interpretation of History.**

Use p 63 penultimate paragraph to explain what this was:-

According to source, what did the school children have to do to their textbooks and why?

Varia showed us her school textbook where the portraits of the communist Party leaders had thick pieces of paper pasted over them as one by one they fell into disgrace. The children had to do this on the instructions of their teacher.

Stalin was made out to be Lenin's right-hand man and references to Trotsky's role in 1917-21 were removed.

See the photo sources R and S p 64.

Instead Trotsky was described as a traitor.

People out of favour were removed from photographs.

See figure 4.4 p 81 to notice any other changes to education

How successful were the changes to education?

- By 1939, 94% of urban dwellers and 86% peasants were able to read and write. (c/p 55% in 1928)
- The number of students attending university rose from _____ in 1927 to _____ in 1939
- The USSR was able to produce many engineers, doctors and scientists.

Do the activity p 81.

*Then lead this into a the **b style exam question** also on that page.*

Also read the “extend your knowledge” box!!!!!!

Young people were also indoctrinated through **Youth Organisations**:-

❖ **Pioneers** (9-14)

The promise made by each member of the Young Pioneers:-

I, a young pioneer of the Soviet Union, in the presence of my comrades, solemnly promise to love my Soviet motherland passionately and to live, learn and struggle as the great Lenin bade us and the Communist Party teaches us.

❖ **Komsomol** (15-28)

Add notes from p 64.

What types of propaganda were used?

Religion

Stalin continued and extended the attack on religion. It was ridiculed and its leaders persecuted.

Religious propaganda was banned.
Anti-religious propaganda was encouraged e.g. The Godless League. They also smashed churches and burned religious pictures.

What is the message of this poster?



Many Bishops were arrested; by 1939 only 4 out of 163 Bishops were not in prison.

Many churches, synagogues & mosques were closed; only 4,000 churches out of 54,000 were still open.

Pilgrimages to Mecca were banned; women were encouraged to unveil
Jewish and Muslim schools were closed

Recap questions:-

a) Why did the Communists persecute religion ?

b) Why did Stalin not outright ban religion?

Belief seems to have survived, despite persecution. 50 million people still claimed to hold religious beliefs in a census of 1937.

The Persecution of the Nationalities (or ethnic minorities)

Read the intro p 82.

Note the most common nationalities listed in source L p 82.

Early Soviet Policies towards ethnic minorities:-p82

The early decrees had promised the right to self-government, freedom of religion and the right to develop their own culture and lifestyle.

Although the Red Army had forcibly invaded and restored Ukraine and Georgia when they tried to declare themselves independent, the Communists spoke about the USSR as a **family of nations**; each national group would rule itself but form one greater country.

Bottom of p 82:- Notice how the sub-divisions of the USSR reflected the nationalities and how the republics were declared to be _____.

In the 1920's, the Communists did not subject their ethnic minorities to Russification. They encouraged national groups to celebrate their own culture through schools, newspapers, books etc, using their own language. Local leaders were trained up and given roles in the Party and government.

Stalin had developed this policy himself under Lenin, as Commissar for Nationalities. (Stalin was from an ethnic minority himself)



Why did Stalin change this approach to ethnic groups?

See middle of p 83 "By the 1930's..."

He wanted to turn people into loyal soviet citizens, united not divided by cultural identity.

From 1932, Stalin renewed Russification.

- People were discouraged from speaking their own languages and practising their own traditions. It would be seen as disloyalty to the USSR.
- Russian was made a compulsory 2nd language in schools
- Top jobs were given to Russians
- Army recruits were sent away from their homelands
- During the purges, Nationalist leaders, teachers, writers and artists were arrested
- Whole ethnic groups e.g. Poles and Estonians were **deported** to Kazakhstan and Siberia.

171,000 Koreans were deported.

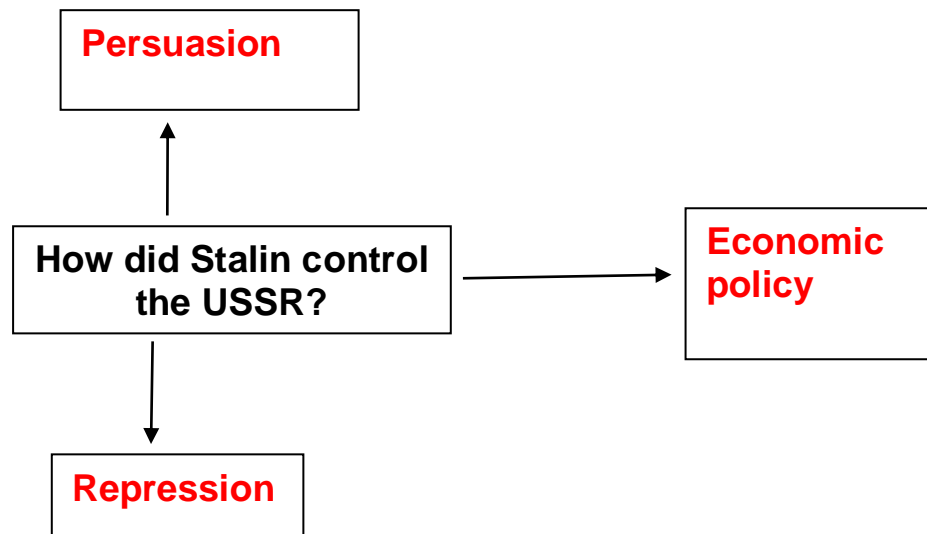
Interview with Roma Shin whose Korean parents were deported in 1936:-

The Korean people were deported without being asked anything, in cattle trains...people were sent to Kazakhstan, to the steppe, or to Uzbekistan. A number died on the way or when they arrived. Stalin claimed they were acting as spies for the government of Japan.

Why were they deported according to the source?

Stalin ignored the fact that Koreans were more likely to hate the Japanese for their brutal occupation of Korea.

Recap this section using p 65 and 84.



How did Stalin control the USSR?

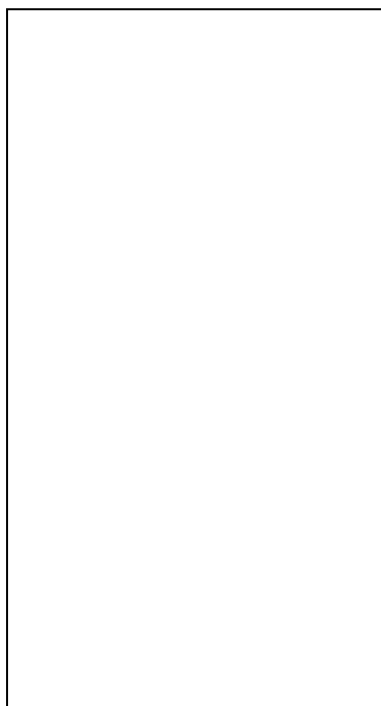
	In what ways did this factor increase Stalin's control?	score
Show Trials		
Purges/ NKVD		
Control of Communist Party/ Constitution		
Propaganda Censorship		
Education/ Youth Groups		
Economic Policy		

“The Great Patriotic War” 1941-45

(this was Stalin’s name for the 2nd World War, when Germany invaded the USSR)

Patriotic means _____


This is not a communist idea. Stalin was deliberately evoking nationalism to encourage his people to resist the Germans.



To get resources
e.g.

Why did Hitler want to invade the USSR?
Get points from p 88 & add from the board

To get Lebensraum



The Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939

Despite the fact that Nazism and Communism were ideological enemies, in 1939, Germany and USSR signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** (aka **Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact**), which promised that neither country would attack the other (**Non-Aggression Pact**). This was a “marriage of convenience” only.

Why did they sign this Pact?

Stalin's Reasons	Hitler's Reasons

Operation Barbarossa 1941

By 1941, Hitler had defeated France, Denmark, Norway, and Benelux...but not Britain. But as Britain was across the channel and all alone Hitler risked opening a second front. He decided it was time to break the Nazi Soviet Pact.

He planned his invasion of USSR, codenamed “**Operation Barbarossa**” for April 1941. However he had to delay his invasion by two crucial months in order to rescue his ally Mussolini, who had tried to invade Greece and countries in North Africa. Mussolini's armies were being badly beaten by the Greeks and the British so Hitler diverted his best commander, Rommel to fight the British back.

June 22nd 1941 German troops invaded the USSR

There were 160 divisions (over 3 million troops) advancing along a 3,000-mile front.

There were 3 main prongs of the attack:-

- Army Group North advanced north & laid siege to Leningrad in September
- Army Group Centre advanced due East towards Moscow

- Army Group South advanced through Ukraine taking Kiev in September, ultimately aiming for the Caucasus

The German tactic was **Blitzkrieg**. (L War). Its essence was speed.

1.

2.

Stalin's reaction *see p 89*

Stalin was caught unawares

His military preparations were inadequate.

The Soviet people had been told that Germany was their ally.

For 11 days Stalin retreated to his country house, refusing to speak or give instructions.

Meanwhile the highly trained, experienced and well –equipped German army made huge in-roads into Soviet territory, advancing an average 80 km a day

Finally Stalin addressed the nation 3rd July 1941.

The German advance 1941.

Hitler planned to capture Moscow and Leningrad by winter which he believed would lead to the collapse of the USSR.

However, Hitler's tactic of Blitzkrieg depended on speed. The sheer size of the USSR meant that it took Hitler's motorised infantry ages to get across vast areas. They were further hampered by the poor roads.

8th September The Germans laid siege to **Leningrad**

They were further slowed down when heavy rain in October turned the poor roads into mud. This was followed in November by snow and temperatures of -35°C.

When the Germans were outside Moscow, Hitler decided to delay the assault to focus on his southern target (to secure oil) which gave the Moscovites time to reinforce their defences and also for **General Zhukov** to get his troops west to launch a successful counter-attack in December. This was made possible by accurate intelligence from soviet spies in Tokyo that Japan would not attack the USSR, (Japan turned its attention East, and attacked the ___ at P_____ H _____) This meant that the Soviet Army was able to withdraw troops from the Far East to save Moscow. Furthermore, Stalin's decision to remain in Moscow may have helped give the soviets confidence.

Crucially the German troops had failed to capture Moscow by the time the freezing winter set which meant that they had no shelter. Hitler had not expected this and hadn't provided winter clothing or anti-freeze. That winter, a quarter of a million German troops succumbed to frostbite

Read 3rd bullet point p 90:-What measures did the German soldiers take to try to keep themselves warm?

What other major problems did the cold cause to the German attack?

Read also source B p 91

Note how well Zhukov's troops were prepared in the 2nd last bullet point p 90:-

Nevertheless the Germans had made considerable gains by the end of 1941:-
Copy the bullet points from p 89:-

In what ways were these early disasters Stalin's fault?

Why did some soviet citizens welcome the Germans & even fight with them?

German Treatment of Soviets in Occupied Territory

Read the extend your knowledge box p 94.

- **PoWs** (Prisoners of War- soldiers who surrendered) were shot on sight or starved in camps
3,400,000 out of 5,700,000 pows died
- 1000's of **Jews** were shot into pits; 33,771 Jews from Kiev murdered in 2 days. Also soviet political officials were killed, as well as Roma and disabled persons.
- **Partisans** were hanged
- 3 million Soviet civilians were taken to Germany as **slave labour**.

Why were the Germans so brutal to the slavs and Jews?

How would this brutality affect Soviet fighters?

Why did the Soviets win?

USSR's Tactics p 91

Stalin's leadership

Stalin's speech

read p91 3rd bullet point

“Brothers...comrades

“cruel enemy”

Partisans – Stalin order some soviets to remain behind in German-occupied territory. They were to hamper the Germans by using sabotage e.g. destroying bridges. *See the film **Defiance**.*

Scorched Earth tactics:-

Stalin ordered the destruction of anything the Germans could use e.g. food, fuel, vehicles, machines and buildings which the soviets could not take with them as they retreated.

Make notes on other aspects of Stalin's leadership from p 93

Zhukov

Read extend your knowledge box p 93.

The war economy

The failure of the Germans to defeat the USSR quickly meant that they faced instead a long drawn out war in which economic strength would most likely determine the winner.

The Soviet Union won this battle.

Look at the chart p 92.

Much of Soviet industry built in the Five Year Plans was beyond the reach of the Germans, which meant that despite their rapid advance in 1941, the USSR could continue to produce weapons. Moreover Stalin ordered that 1500 factories in the west of the USSR be dismantled and moved east of Urals ahead of the German advance.

The **T34** tank was a particularly successful model.

Over 50% national income was spent on the war which was higher than Britain, France or the US.

Average working week increased to 77 hours week (7 days a week). In some cases people worked 12-18 hour shifts. Holidays were abolished.

Women were mobilised to fill the labour shortage.

Read the extend your knowledge section – they also served in the military war effort

Gulag labour performed essential war work.

The US supplied weapons food and transport to the USSR.

The Heroism of the Soviet People.

In 1941 Hitler said “**we only have to kick in the door and the whole rotten structure will come down**”

The Soviet people put up astonishing resistance to the Germans. 7 cities earned the title “**Hero city**”.

The Siege of Leningrad 1941-44 (Petrograd)

What did Hitler aim to accomplish and how? Read the source below:-

Source A 1941

“The Fuhrer has decided to wipe out the city of Leningrad from the face of the earth. After the defeat of Soviet Russia there will be not the slightest reason for the future existence of this large city.

It is intended to blockade the city and destroy it by artillery fire and ceaseless bombardment from the air...if they want to surrender they will be refused. We have no interest in keeping even part of this great city’s population”

Why did he use “siege”? See p 94.

In September 1941, German and Finnish troops surrounded the city in what was to become the biggest siege in modern History. It lasted 2 ½ years (900 days).

Life for citizens of Leningrad

Men, women and children all helped digging defences and making weapons.

There was constant enemy bombardment from artillery and the air.

Food became very scarce.

Source B *“To fill their stomachs people would try to catch crows or any cat or dog that had still somehow survived; they would go through medicine chests in search of castor oil, hair oil, Vaseline or glycerine, they would make soup or jelly out of glue scraped off wall paper or broken up furniture... in the streets people would fall down and never rise again.*”

Use p 94 to add more detail about the food shortages.

These rations provided approximately 32% of the workers' daily needs. For children it was less than 25%.

When the temperature fell below -15, **Lake Ladoga** froze solid enough to form 2 metre thick ice over which trucks bringing supplies could drive - this was very dangerous for the trucks because _____.
Also enemy planes would attack them.

As well as this, the Leningraders had to cope with fuel shortages, and water & electricity were cut off.

Source C This is the account of a 16 year old school girl:-

“our classes continued on the “round the stove” principle. If you wanted a seat near the stove or under the stove pipe you had to come early. It was agony to stand up and go to the blackboard...where it was cold and dark and your hand imprisoned in its heavy glove went all numb and rigid and refused to obey. The chalk kept falling out of your hand. By the time we reached the third lesson there was no more fuel left. The stove went cold and it became terribly cold.”

The cold and lack of food meant people were vulnerable to disease.

Of the 3 million people lived in Leningrad approximately 1 million died during the siege. (more than the total British and American war dead)

See sources D and E p 94 textbook.

Source D This was written in a notebook by an 11 year old girl called Tanya about her family:-

28th December 1941 Zhenya died
25th January 1942 Babushka died
17th March Leka died
13th April Dedy Vasya died
10th May Dedy Lesha died
13th May Mama died
Savichers died.
All died. Only Tanya remains.

Tanya herself died in 1943 of dysentery.

Read the “Extend your knowledge” box p 94. **Shostakovich Symphony no 7**

The Leningraders probably suffered the worst but for most soviet citizens, food was scarce. *Read the first extend your knowledge box p 95.*

Also read

The City of Thieves by David Benioff

The Siege by Helen Dunmore

*Do the following b) question:-***Explain two effects of the German occupation on the peoples of Western USSR 1941-3? (8 marks)**

Why did the Soviet people fight with such determination?

1. **German brutality**. *Look back at p 86 in the pack*

Look back at source A p 89 pack; *what did Hitler say that suggests the Leningraders were right to refuse to surrender?*

2. The persecution of the Orthodox Church was relaxed:-

- 1943 the Orthodox Church elected a new leader
- Theological colleges reopened
- 24,000 churches reopened
- 74 bishops were restored to office
- Anti-religious propaganda stopped
- RE was no longer banned.

3. Writers and artists were encouraged to produce inspiring work. They praised the courage of soviet heroes fighting the Germans; their work was very emotional.

4. Force

Punishments for not supporting the war effort were severe; workers who were 20 minutes late or caught stealing could face imprisonment. Soldiers who refused to fight could be put in penal battalions and forced to carry out dangerous tasks such as clearing minefields.

Alternatively they were shot- it is estimated that 300,000 soviet troops were shot.

“Traitors” who collaborated with the Germans were cruelly punished e.g.

Vlasov was hanged from a meat hook.

Nationalities considered to be disloyal were deported to Siberia e.g. the Volga Germans and 89,000 Finns.

Read p 95 just above source F to find out about Chechnya.

Allied Help

Make notes p 95.

What does 5.3 p 96 show?

Turning Points

1. 1942-3 The Battle of Stalingrad “Enemy at the Gate”

The Soviets’ ferocious defence of Stalingrad was one of the main reasons for victory.

Why did Hitler want to capture Stalingrad?

The quick victory expected in 1941 had not happened so the Germans faced a war of attrition. They needed the oil fields of the Caucasus region. Stalingrad, on the banks of the River Volga, was seen as the centre of north-south communication whose capture would cut off oil supplies to the north of the USSR.

Moreover, Hitler also could not resist trying to capture the city that bore his enemy’s name. For the same reason, it became important to the Soviets not to let it be taken.

- The German Sixth Army (300,000 troops), led by **Von Paulus**, surrounded Stalingrad in June 1942.
- The city was bombed by planes. Then the ground troops went in. However the bombardment of the city ironically made it more difficult for the Germans to use their transport.
- Once in the city, the battle turned into a bitter struggle for each street, even each house or room! *Read source F p 95.*
- In the ruined city, the German tanks were not much use. The smaller soviet sub-machine guns were more useful.

Also snipers caused a lot of damage. *Read p 97*

*Also see the film **Enemy at the Gate***

The Red Army counter-attacked at night to deprive Germans of sleep and damage their morale.

Read sources G and H p 98. What do they suggest about the strength of German morale at Stalingrad?

- Despite massive losses (see bottom p 97) the Soviet troops held their ground.
- Because the battle dragged on, Zhukov was able to reach Stalingrad with reinforcements in November. The Germans were encircled. Von Paulus requested permission to retreat but Hitler refused. Two months of bitter fighting later, he surrendered in January 1943. He only had 91,000 men left.

**Why did the Soviets win the
Battle of Stalingrad?**

The Significance of Stalingrad:-

Add detail using p 99-100.

2. The Battle of Kursk 1943

Hitler launched another offensive using his newest tanks. This was the largest tank battle to date. However the Germans lost to the superior Soviet tank, the **T34**. The Five Year Plans and the decision to move all Soviet industry to the east, out of range of German Stukas, had paid off.

These 2 two battles were turning points. From this point onwards, the Germans retreated. The Soviet army advanced into Eastern Europe.

Why did the Soviets win the war?

Soviet strengths	Enemies' mistakes
	(try to arrange these points chronologically)

Do the b and c exam questions on p 100. (there are tips p 109 -110 but note it is a different question)

The Soviet Union 1945-53

Economic and Social

The Soviet Union had been badly affected by the war:-

- An estimated 28,000,000 people died (9 million soldiers and 19 million civilians) through famine, combat and enemy action.
- The scorched earth policy took its toll:-
- 1,200 towns, 70,000 villages, 84,000 schools, 40,000 hospitals, 65,000 km railways and 100,000 collective farms had been destroyed
- By the end of the war, 25 million Russians were homeless and for several years many people lived in tents, mud huts or trenches in the ground.
- The loss of men and animals meant that women had to pull the plough.

Most of European Russia was destroyed. Most of the advances of the 1930s were wiped out. 70% Soviet industrial production had been lost & showcase projects like the Dnieper Dam had been ruined. [See source M p 101](#)

The **Fourth Five Year Plan 1946-50** was launched to rebuild the economy.

- 88% of the investment was in heavy industry & armaments production.
- The amount spent on the USSR's military in 1946 was greater than it had been in 1940.
- Mines, factories and rail links were quickly rebuilt. The Dnieper Dam was restored in 1947.
- Production in heavy industry quickly matched and then surpassed pre-war levels. [See table p 102](#). It was the fastest growing economy in the world.
- The USSR's economic output was second only to the USA's

However, it should be noted that

- Consumer goods were not a priority so were in short supply
- Workers were set extraordinary targets and failure to meet them resulted in punishment
- The state exploited about 2 million slave labourers
- The USSR extracted factories as reparations from Germany
- **Agricultural recovery** was slow - [see the chart on p 103](#)

[use p 103 to explain why this recovery was slow:-](#)

Do the a exam-style question p 102.

The **5th Five Year Plan** was less successful as it concentrated on massive projects which had little practical value, instead of building housing.

The situation for women became worse as a consequence of the war. Stalin was not sympathetic to the women who had been assaulted by Soviet troops. The effects of the war meant that there were not enough men to go round. This led to a change in the law which meant that a man could no longer be held legally responsible for a child born out of wedlock.

Political aspects

The war raised Stalin's position to new heights and he basked in the glory of the military victory and although he was making fewer and fewer public appearances, **the cult of personality reached extreme levels.**

Can we ever know how truly popular he was? Read p 105 bottom half.

But Stalin was even more suspicious of disloyalty and didn't want anyone else taking credit for the victory.

Stalin broke up war-time institutions, such as the State Defence Committee (GKO) that had wielded great power. He also demoted the popular army leader, Zhukov. Zhukov was barely mentioned in the new history books.

He resumed his persecution of the Orthodox Church.

Any poets, artists, writers and scientists who dared to question were purged. Foreign learning and achievements were scorned. The Leningrad leader, **Zhdanov**, led these criticisms, calling the satirist Mikhail Zoshchenko the 'scum of literary earth' and poet Anna Akhmatov a prostitute.

However Stalin distrusted the Leningrad Communist Party; there were rumours that during the siege, there had been some criticism of Stalin's leadership; meanwhile the Leningrad leaders become popular for keeping Leningrad going during the siege. When Zhdanov died 1948, Stalin ordered a purge of the Leningrad Party in 1949, arresting anyone with connections to Zhdanov, accusing them of plotting to set up a rival communist party, corruption and spying for Britain. 200 top party officials were arrested and sentenced to 10-25 years in prison; 2,000 more officials were removed from their position and exiled from their city.

Stalin regarded the c.1,500,000 Soviet soldiers who had surrendered to the Germans as traitors. (*see the “extend your knowledge” box p 104*) Many were sent to Siberian labour camps or murdered in the new purges that were carried out in the late 1940s.

Stalin punished those republics or ethnic groups that had welcomed the Germans with mass deportations:

- In 1950 400,000 Lithuanians, Latvians & Estonians and 300,000 Ukrainians were deported.
- Of the 3 million people **Crimean Tartars** transported, approx. 500,000 died en route.

Russians whom he trusted were moved to take the place of these ethnic groups on the borders.

Anti-Semitism and the Doctors’ Plot 1952-3

Stalin was more suspicious of anyone with connections to the outside world and this developed into renewed suspicion of Jews following the creation of Israel 1948 and its close links with the USA (see **Cold War** below) so Jews were systematically persecuted. Stalin felt they were not patriotic enough; that their loyalty was to their fellow Jews around the world rather than to the USSR.

Use p 105 to list how they were persecuted, including the “extend your knowledge” box.

Stalin was already suspicious that a Jewish doctor had refused to save Zhdanov. When his own doctor suggested he reduce his workload, Stalin’s paranoia convinced him that there was a plot to kill him, the imaginary “**Doctors’ Plot**” 1952-3. It was claimed that doctors, including Stalin’s own physician, were poisoning Soviet leaders. Initially, 37 doctors were arrested (mostly Jews), and under torture, they confessed and implicated others. Hundreds more were arrested. Scores of Soviet Jews were promptly dismissed from their jobs in other areas, arrested, sent to GULAGs or executed. This was accompanied by show trials and by anti-Semitic propaganda in state-run mass media. Many historians believe he would have deported all the Jews if his death had not intervened.



Impact *during* the war 1941-45

Deaths

Life in German-occupied areas

Leningrad

Stalingrad

Churches and the Arts

Living/working conditions

The War increased Stalin's control

Cult of Stalin

Rivals- Zhukov

GKO

Leningrad Party

The war caused physical damage

Scorched Earth and enemy bombing led to the destruction of

The war worsened the position of women

What was the Impact of the War on Stalin and the USSR?

The war increased Stalin's suspicion of the West – he believed they deliberately encouraged Hitler's aggression eastwards by appeasing him and delayed opening a 2nd front until 1944. This led to the **Cold War**

The Red Army "liberated" Eastern Europe and set up communist governments controlled by Moscow. Their economies were modelled on the soviet economy. The USSR became a superpower.

Stalin's suspicions led to more repression:-

PoWs

Ethnic groups

Artists/writers

Anti-Semitism "Doctors' Plot"

Stalin's Death 1953

On the night of February 28th Stalin watched a film at the Kremlin, then returned to his dacha, where he met with several prominent subordinates including Beria, head of the NKVD (secret police) and Khrushchev, who would eventually succeed Stalin. They left at 4:00 am, with no suggestion that Stalin was in poor health. Stalin then went to bed, but only after saying the guards could go off duty and that they weren't to wake him.

Stalin would usually alert his guards before 10:00 am and ask for tea, but no communication came. The guards grew worried, but were forbidden from waking Stalin and could only wait: there was no one in the Dacha who could counter Stalin's orders. A light came on in the room around 18:30, but still no call. Eventually, plucking up the courage to go in and using the arrived post as an excuse, a guard entered the room at 22:00 and found Stalin lying on the floor in a pool of urine. He was helpless and unable to speak, and his broken watch showed he had fallen at 18:30.

A Delay in Treatment:

The guards felt they didn't have the right authority to call for a doctor – indeed many of Stalin's doctors were the target of the 1952 purge – so instead they called the Minister of State Security. He also felt he didn't have the right powers and called Beria. Exactly what happened next is still not fully understood, but Beria and other leading Russians delayed acting, possibly because they wanted Stalin to die and not include them in the forthcoming purge, possibly because they were scared of seeming to infringe on Stalin's powers should he recover. They only called for doctors sometime between 7:00 and 10:00 the next day after first travelling to the Dacha themselves.

The doctors found Stalin partially paralysed, breathing with difficulty and vomiting blood. They feared the worst but were unsure. They consulted the doctors who were still in prison, and they confirmed the initial, negative, diagnoses. Stalin struggled on for several days, eventually dying at 21:50 on March 5th. His daughter said "The death agony was terrible. He literally choked to death as we watched."

See the film [Death of Stalin](#).

When Stalin died in 1953, the USSR was governed by a committee, including Malenkov, Molotov, Khrushchev and Bulganin.

Read **Khrushchev's speech** source R p 107 and the text just above it.

What criticisms of Stalin did he make?

Read the 2 views in the activity box.

How was the USSR changed by Stalin's rule?

You could use p 107 to help you.

	Positive (National hero)	Negative (cruel monster)
Geography Cities Transport		
Political		

<p>Economy</p> <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Industry</p>		
<p>Social</p> <p>Family life</p> <p>Living standards</p>		

<p>Cultural</p> <p>Art/music/ Literature Religion</p> <p>Ethnic minorities</p> <p>education</p>		
<p>International position of the USSR After World War Two</p> <p>(see p 106)</p>		

Use p 108 to recap this section.