

A Level History Summer Independent Learning 2026

Compulsory task 1: NEA AO1 draft write up

Complete the write up of the AO1 draft of your Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).

- 2000 words maximum
- Oxford referencing (footnotes) must be included
- Must be submitted as a word document (not as a PDF file)

All NEA resources can be found on your Microsoft Teams class team in Files > Class Materials > NEA Lessons folder. Use your AO1 plan to help you write your draft.

This must be uploaded to the Microsoft Teams assignment by **4pm Tuesday 1 September 2026**.

Failure to meet this deadline is a breach of the student code of conduct and will lead to formal disciplinary action. The student code of conduct can be found here: <https://nclt.ac.uk/code-of-conduct/>

Compulsory task 2: Russia source question

Plan **and** write out a full answer to the Russia source question on pages 5 and 6 of this document.

Answers must be handwritten unless you have exam arrangements to use a computer. If you use a computer for assessments and exams, please type the answer to reflect your normal way of working.

Bring your plan and full answer to your first lesson back in the week beginning Tuesday 1 September

Compulsory task 3: Russian economic policies under Lenin and Stalin up to 1928 – recap

Use the information below and your notes on economic policy under Lenin and Stalin (from your Russia booklets 2 and 3) to complete the table on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Bring your completed notes on this to the first lesson back in September.

What were the key features of a socialist economy in the USSR?

It is important to note that these 'key features' may have been key features of a socialist economy in the USSR in theory, but in practice compromises or adaptations may have been made dependent on circumstances and leadership.

1. **State ownership of the means of production:** All major industries (factories, mines, utilities), natural resources and agricultural land were owned and controlled by the state.
2. **Centralised economic planning:** centralised planning agency to coordinate all aspects of the economy and meet goals set by the government.
3. **Collectivisation of agriculture:** increase agricultural productivity through mechanisation and shared resources. Supply of modern machinery to agriculture.
4. **Elimination of market mechanisms:** prices, wages, and distribution of goods to be centrally determined.
5. **Full employment and job security:** workers assigned jobs based on the needs of the economy.
6. **Provision of basic needs and services:** including healthcare, education, and housing.
7. **Suppression of private enterprise:** private business and entrepreneurship suppressed.
8. **Priority development of heavy industry:** developing heavy industry was a key priority (e.g., steel, coal, machinery). This was seen as vital for several reasons:
 - a. to achieve technical progress - linked to supplying modern machinery to agriculture.
 - b. achieve rapid industrialisation, which would also give a leading role in society to the urban working class (proletariat).
 - c. increase military strength to defend against a hostile capitalist world.
9. **Planned resource allocation:** labour and raw materials allocated according to the central plan to optimise economic output and achieve strategic goals set by the government.

For each economic policy you have studied so far under Lenin and Stalin, write a summary of the policy, and an evaluation of the extent to which you think it helped to move towards or achieve the key features of a socialist economy in the USSR as outlined above.

Economic policy	Summary of policy	Evaluation – to what extent did the policy help the USSR move towards the key features of the socialist economy?
Economic policies under Lenin		
State capitalism	A compromise economy that embraced some elements of socialism by imposing a degree of state control but retained elements of capitalism such as private markets and the profit incentive.	Not a full move to socialist economy but a partial one because there was some state ownership of the means of production but retained elements of market mechanisms and did not full suppress private enterprise as selling for profit was still allowed.
War Communism		

New Economic Policy (NEP)		
Economic policies under Stalin		
The Great Turn (the first Five- Year Plan)		

Russia source question

Source A

Adapted from Lenin's 'Theses for Peace', published in the official Communist newspaper 'Pravda' in February 1918.

1. The condition of the Russian Revolution at the present moment is such that practically all the workers and a large majority of the peasants are on the side of the Soviet Government and the social revolution.
2. In that respect the success of the Socialist Revolution in Russia seems assured.
3. At the same time the civil war which was caused by the furious resistance of the propertied classes has not reached its highest point. In the end the Soviet Government will win the fight, but it will take much time and a good deal of energy, and a certain period of disorganisation and chaos incidental to every war and especially civil war is inevitable before the bourgeoisie is finally crushed.

Furthermore, the resistance of the bourgeoisie in its less active and non-military forms such as sabotage, bribing tramps and other hirelings of the bourgeoisie to join the Socialist ranks with the purpose of undermining their cause, has proved to be so obstinate and capable of assuming such varying forms that it will take time, several months perhaps, to put it down.

Source B

Adapted from Bessie Beatty's book, *The Red Heart of Russia*, written in 1918. Beatty was an American journalist who lived in Russia at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution. She later defended the Bolsheviks in front of a US Senate Committee in 1921.

...Yakov Peters [One of the founders of the Cheka] told me that one day he was riding on a street car, when the man sitting beside him engaged him in conversation. He offered to sell him twelve hundred bags of flour at two hundred and fifty roubles each, six thousand pounds of sugar, and some butter. Peters got him to write down his name and address and within the hour, he had been arrested and his supplies had been seized. Despite all efforts to unearth the offenders, a few men waxed hideously rich upon the hunger of the many. All provocation notwithstanding, the guillotine remained simply a name. Wherever the death penalty was inflicted, it was done by mobs having no official sanction, by mobs aroused to an uncontrolled fury, and momentarily conscious of no other passion than that of reprisal. Considering the unsettled condition of government, such instances of violence were not so frequent as to change the character of the Revolution into that of a Reign of Terror.

Source C

Adapted from *Kronstadt Izvestia*, the main publication of the Kronstadt rebels, March 1921.

Our country is enduring a difficult moment. Hunger, cold and economic ruin have held us in an iron vice these three years already. The Communist Party, which rules the country, has become separated from the masses and shown itself unable to lead her from her state of general ruin. It has not faced the reality of the disturbances which in recent times have occurred in Petrograd and Moscow. This unrest shows clearly enough that the party has lost the faith of the working masses. Neither has it recognised the demands presented by the workers. It considers them plots of the counterrevolution. It is deeply mistaken.

This unrest, these demands, are the voice of the people in its entirety, of all labourers. All workers, sailors and soldiers see clearly at the present moment that only through common effort, by the common will of the labourers, is it possible to give the country bread, wood and coal, to dress the barefoot and naked, and to lead the Republic out of this dead end.

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Bolshevik Revolution* between 1917 and 1921. (30 marks)

The Bolshevik Revolution between 1917 and 1921 refers to the period **after the October/November 1917 seizure of power by the Bolsheviks, during which they fought a civil war against their opponents and consolidated communist rule. This is different to the February/March and October/November revolutions of 1917 that were two distinct uprisings -the first overthrew the Tsar (and was not led by the Bolsheviks) and the second overthrew the Provisional Government (which was led by the Bolsheviks).*