

NAME: _____

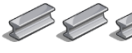
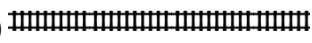
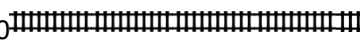
20thC Hist. 12

DATE: _____

Russian Revolution Document Based Question

Use the documents below to answer the questions given. (30 marks)

DOCUMENT 1

Russian & German Industrialization in 1913		
	Germany	Russia
Coal (millions of tonnes)	190.0 	36.0 
Pig Iron (millions of tonnes)	6.8 	4.6 
Steel (millions of tonnes)	8.3 	4.8 
Railways (thousands of kilometres)	64.0 	65.0 

QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chart say about the level of industrialization in Russia in 1913? (1)

2. Why would it be useful to compare Germany and Russia in 1913? (1)

3. What conclusion is suggested by the kilometers of railway? (1)

DOCUMENT 2

Unarmed [Russian] men had to be sent into the trenches to wait till their comrades were killed or wounded and their rifles became available.

- report from a British officer in Russia (1915)

Questions:

1. What does this say about Russia's war effort at home? (1)

2. What does this explain about Russia's military in World War One? (2)

DOCUMENT 3

Percentage Increase in Food Prices, December 1916-February 1917			
FOOD	Percentage Increase	FOOD	Percentage Increase
Potatoes	25%	Carrots	35%
Sausage	50%	Ham	60%
Pears	150%	Chocolate	100%
Butter	15%	Bread	15%
Cheese	25%	Cabbage	25%

Questions:

1. How does this chart explain the February Revolution? (1)

2. How does this chart conflict with your understanding of the February revolution? Explain (2)

DOCUMENT 4

The NEW YORK TIMES

March 12, 1917

“Hunger Causes Petrograd Riots”

The question of the food supply of the capital of Russia has reached a crisis. Petrograd is particularly badly situated on the confines of the empire, in a region incapable of producing breadstuff, and therefore wholly dependent upon railways for the necessities of daily life. . . .

The people have cheerfully endured every manner of inconvenience throughout the long Winter in obtaining food supplies. Latterly, however, there has been witnessed the phenomenon of shortage in certain quarters of the city of the staple food of the common people, namely, the favorite Russia black bread. . . . On Thursday a number of women and younger men of the working class made a peaceful demonstration of protest against the mismanagement of the food supplies. A similar movement was noticed in certain quarters of the city yesterday.”

Questions:

1. Why were food shortages a major problem in Petrograd? (1)

2. How did food shortages contribute to a revolutionary movement in Russia? (2)

DOCUMENT 5

Memorandums from the Office of the American Consulate General in Moscow to the United States State Department. Source: National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/tel3.html>

March 19, 1917. The coup d'état, a stage of the uncompleted revolution, executed by revolutionary workingmen and soldiers, too recently recruited to have acquired discipline or to have lost touch with their late companions in field and factory, has whetted already keen appetites for land, social reorganization and autonomy or independence. . . . Discipline was shaken, perhaps irreparably, when soldiers disarmed their officers. In the absence of popular interest in the war, the zeal of the revolutionists and to a certain extent of the liberals also having depended always on the uses they expected to make of the difficulties created by the war in the reshaping of home affairs, it is to be feared that troops at the front will slip away from their commands and return to take part in the carnival of liberty, which to most of them means seizing the large estates for themselves. The workingmen are demanding an immediate Constituent Assembly and there is a tendency not to return to factory and barrack, nor to yield newly acquired weapons, until the political and social reorganization are assured.

March 20, 1917. Subject. The political and economical situation in Moscow. . . . At the present writing the street cars are all running, and life has assumed its normal course. There is an undercurrent of unrest, however, and the shortage of food supplies tends to augment the discontent. Long bread lines stretching for blocks may be seen on every street waiting often to be told that there is none left. The daily allowance is . . . nine tenths of a pound. To obtain this one must stand in the bread lines for two or three hours, and often longer. The supply of flour is short and the revolution of the past few days has diminished even this. . . . Prices of all articles of necessity are rapidly rising. It is difficult to give a table showing same as the figures given out are purely fictitious, each shop charging what they can get. Flour, for instance cannot be bought at all. There is none for sale in the city. Meat is practically unobtainable, and then only three days in the week. Milk, eggs, flour, bread, and meat will soon be sold only by card. The city is thronged with refugees and houses are unobtainable even at exorbitant prices.

Questions:

1. What concerns about the revolutionary movement are expressed in the first memo? (1)

2. According to the second memo, what are conditions like in Moscow? (1)

3. Why do you think the American government is interested in Russian politics? (2)

DOCUMENT 6

Political Slogans of the Bolshevik Party (1917).

“Peace, Bread and Land!”

“All power to the Soviets!”

Question:

1. Why would these slogans appeal to the Russian people? (4)

DOCUMENT 7



Street demonstration in Petrograd (June 18, 1917). The protest is against the new Provisional government. The banner in the foreground reads “Down With The 10 Capitalist Ministers/ All Power To The Soviets Of Workers’, Soldiers’, And Peasants/ We Demand That Nicholas II Be Transferred To The Peter-Paul Fortress.”

Questions:

1. What does this protest tell us about political conditions in Russia? (3)

DOCUMENT 8

Lessons of the Revolution by V.I. Lenin, July 1917

“The people want peace. Yet the revolutionary government of free Russia has resumed the war of conquest on the basis of those very same secret treaties which ex-Tsar Nicholas II concluded with the British and French capitalists so that the Russian capitalists might plunder other nations. . . . There is no bread. Famine is again drawing near. Everybody sees that the capitalists and the rich are unscrupulously cheating the treasury on war deliveries, that they are raking in fabulous profits through high prices, while nothing whatsoever has been done to establish effective control by the workers over the production and distribution of goods. The capitalists are becoming more brazen every day; they are throwing workers out into the street, and this at a time when the people are suffering from shortages. A vast majority of the peasants . . . have loudly and clearly declared that landed proprietorship is an injustice and robbery. Meanwhile, a government which calls itself revolutionary and democratic has been . . . deceiving them by promises and delays. . . . The government has become so brazen in its defense of the landowners that it is beginning to bring peasants to trial for “unauthorized” seizures of land. The lesson of the Russian revolution is that there can be no escape for the working people from the iron grip of war, famine, and enslavement by the landowners and capitalists unless . . . they renounce all compromises with the bourgeoisie. . . . Only the revolutionary workers, if supported by the peasant poor, are capable of smashing the resistance of the capitalists and leading the people in gaining land with out compensation, complete liberty, victory over famine and the war, and a just and lasting peace.”

Questions:

1. Why does Lenin denounce the new Provisional government? (2)

2. According to Lenin, what lesson must be learned from the revolution? (2)

DOCUMENT 9

Supported by an overwhelming majority of the workers, soldiers and peasants, and basing itself on the victorious insurrection of the workers and the garrison of Petrograd, the Congress hereby resolves to take government power in its own hands. The Provisional Government is deposed and most of its members are under arrest. The Soviet authority will at once propose a democratic peace to all nations and an immediate armistice on all fronts... The Congress resolves that all local authority shall be transferred to the Soviets of the Workers', Soldiers', and Peasants' Deputies, which are charged with the task of enforcing revolutionary order

- Proclamation by the Congress of Soviets, 27 October 1917.

Questions:

1. With the overthrow of the Provisional Government, which organization will be in power? (1)

2. What is the first plan of this new government? (2)

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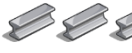
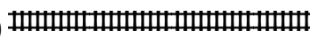
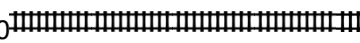
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Railways (thousands of kilometres)	64.0 	65.0 

QUESTIONS:

4. What does this chart say about the level of industrialization in Russia in 1913? (1)

RUSSIA WAS FAR BEHIND GERMANY IN 1913

5. Why would it be useful to compare Germany and Russia in 1913? (1)

BECAUSE IN 1914 THEY WOULD FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER

6. What conclusion is suggested by the kilometers of railway? (1)

EVEN THOUGH RUSSIA HAS MORE RAILWAY, IT IS A LARGER COUNTRY, SO THE CONCLUSION IS THAT RUSSIA IS ACTUALLY BEHIND GERMANY IN THIS AS WELL

DOCUMENT 2

Unarmed [Russian] men had to be sent into the trenches to wait till their comrades were killed or wounded and their rifles became available.

- report from a British officer in Russia (1915)

Questions:

3. What does this say about Russia's war effort at home? (1)

RUSSIA WAS NOT ABLE TO PRODUCE ENOUGH WEAPONS

4. What does this explain about Russia's military in World War One? (2)

THIS EXPLAINS THE WEAKNESS OF RUSSIA'S MILITARY. IT ALSO EXPLAINS THEIR HIGH RATES OF MUTINY AND THE DISSATISFACTION OF THE SOLDIERS WITH THE TSAR.

DOCUMENT 3

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Butter	15%	Bread	15%
Cheese	25%	Cabbage	25%

Questions:

3. How does this chart explain the February Revolution? (1)

HIGH PRICES RISE INDICATE A SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY, WHICH WAS A CAUSE OF THE REV'N

4. How does this chart conflict with your understanding of the February revolution? Explain (2)

THE FEB REV'N STARTED BECAUSE OF BREAD, BUT BREAD ACTUALLY HAD THE LOWEST PRICE INCREASE. THIS IS IRONIC, BUT UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE BREAD IS A STAPLE SUPPLY

DOCUMENT 4

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March 12, 1917

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Questions:

1. Why were food shortages a major problem in Petrograd? (1) PETROGRAD IS DEPENDANT ON FOOD SUPPLIES (by rail) BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION. THEY CAN'T PRODUCE BREAD

2. How did food shortages contribute to a revolutionary movement in Russia? (2)

WHEN THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF STAPLES, (bread), THEN PEOPLE BEGIN TO PROTEST. THESE PROTESTS ARE THE SEEDS OF REVOLUTION)

DOCUMENT 5

Memorandums from the Office of the American Consulate General in Moscow to the United States State Department. Source: National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/tel3.html>

March 19, 1917. The coup d'état, a stage of the uncompleted revolution, executed by revolutionary workingmen and soldiers, too recently recruited to have acquired discipline or to have lost touch with their late companions in field and factory, has whetted already keen appetites for land, social reorganization and autonomy or independence. . . . Discipline was shaken, perhaps irreparably, when soldiers disarmed their officers. In the absence of popular interest in the war, the zeal of the revolutionists and to a certain extent of the liberals also having depended always on the uses they expected to make of the difficulties created by the war in the reshaping of home affairs, it is to be feared that troops at the front will slip away from their commands and return to take part in the carnival of liberty, which to most of them means seizing the large estates for themselves. The workingmen are demanding an immediate Constituent Assembly and there is a tendency not to return to factory and barrack, nor to yield newly acquired weapons, until the political and social reorganization are assured.

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Questions:

4. What concerns about the revolutionary movement are expressed in the first memo? (1)

THE MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT THE WAR EFFORT WILL BE WEAKENED- "Troops at the front will slip away from their commands"

5. According to the second memo, what are conditions like in Moscow? (1)

LIFE APPEARS TO BE NORMAL, BUT EXTREME SHORTAGES OF FOOD THAT ARE GETTING WORSE

6. Why do you think the American government is interested in Russian politics? (2)

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF COMMUNISM. THEY ARE ALSO WORRIED THAT RUSSIA MIGHT PULL OUT OF THE WAR

DOCUMENT 6

Political Slogans of the Bolshevik Party (1917).

“Peace, Bread and Land!”

“All power to the Soviets!”

Question:

2. Why would these slogans appeal to the Russian people? (4) THESE SLOGANS APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY REFER TO THEIR MAJOR PROBLEMS. PEACE IS A REFERENCE TO A DESIRE TO END THE UNPOPULAR WAR, BREAD IS A REFERENCE TO THE FOOD SHORTAGES, AND LAND REFERS TO THE NEED FOR LAND REFORM TO TAKE THE LAND AWAY FROM THE WEALTHY LAND OWNERS. ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS IS A REFERENCE TO THE PEOPLE'S DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PROVISIONAL GOV'T

DOCUMENT 7



Street demonstration in Petrograd (June 18, 1917). The protest is against the new Provisional government. The banner in the foreground reads “Down With The 10 Capitalist Ministers/ All Power To The Soviets Of Workers’, Soldiers’, And Peasants’/ We Demand That Nicholas II Be Transferred To The Peter-Paul Fortress.”

Questions:

2. What does this protest tell us about political conditions in Russia? (3)

THIS PROTEST SHOWS THE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. CALLING THE MINISTERS CAPITALISTS SUGGESTS THAT THEY DON'T FEEL THERE HAS BEEN CHANGE AND THAT THEY VALUE SOCIALIST IDEALS. THEY ARE EXPRESSING A DESIRE TO GET RID OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THIS SUPPORTS REVOLUTION

DOCUMENT 8

Lessons of the Revolution by V.I. Lenin, July 1917

“The people want peace. Yet the revolutionary government of free Russia has resumed the war of conquest on the basis of those very same secret treaties which ex-Tsar Nicholas II concluded with the British and French capitalists so that the Russian capitalists might plunder other nations. . . . There is no bread. Famine is again drawing near. Everybody sees that the capitalists and the rich are unscrupulously cheating the treasury on war deliveries, that they are raking in fabulous profits through high prices, while nothing whatsoever has been done to establish effective control by the workers over the production and distribution of goods. The capitalists are becoming more brazen every day; they are throwing workers out into the street, and this at a time when the people are suffering from shortages. A vast majority of the peasants . . . have loudly and clearly declared that landed proprietorship is an injustice and robbery. Meanwhile, a government which calls itself revolutionary and democratic has been . . . deceiving them by promises and delays. . . . The government has become so brazen in its defense of the landowners that it is beginning to bring peasants to trial for “unauthorized” seizures of land. The lesson of the Russian revolution is that there can be no escape for the working people from the iron grip of war, famine, and enslavement by the landowners and capitalists unless . . . they renounce all compromises with the bourgeoisie. . . . Only the revolutionary workers, if supported by the peasant poor, are capable of smashing the resistance of the capitalists and leading the people in gaining land without compensation, complete liberty, victory over famine and the war, and a just and lasting peace.”

Questions:

3. Why does Lenin denounce the new Provisional government? (2) HE CLAIMS THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE CAPITALISTS WHO PROFIT FROM HIGH PRICES AND CREATE THE PROBLEMS IN THE CITIES, WHILE THEY SUPPORT THE LANDOWNERS AGAINST PEASANTS WHO SEIZE LAND. THE PROVISIONAL GOV'T HAS LOST ITS REVOLUTIONARY PURPOSE.
4. According to Lenin, what lesson must be learned from the revolution? (2) ONLY A REV'N BY THE WORKERS WITH NO COMPROMISES WITH THE BOURGEOISIE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL

DOCUMENT 9

Supported by an overwhelming majority of the workers, soldiers and peasants, and basing itself on the victorious insurrection of the workers and the garrison of Petrograd, the Congress hereby resolves to take government power in its own hands. The Provisional Government is deposed and most of its members are under arrest. The Soviet authority will at once propose a democratic peace to all nations and an immediate armistice on all fronts... The Congress resolves that all local authority shall be transferred to the Soviets of the Workers', Soldiers', and Peasants' Deputies, which are charged with the task of enforcing revolutionary order

- Proclamation by the Congress of Soviets, 27 October 1917.

Questions:

3. With the overthrow of the Provisional Government, which organization will be in power? (1)

THE CONGRESS OF SOVIETS TOOK POWER AND GAVE LOCAL AUTHORITY TO LOCAL SOVIETS

4. What is the first plan of this new government? (2) TO END THE WAR, "PROPOSE A

DEMOCRATIC PEACE, AN IMMEDIATE ARMISTICE ON ALL FRONTS"

MARKING NOTES

1. **FULL SENTENCES** or If you use full sentences, you will better communicate your ideas, and demonstrate a more sophisticated understanding of the issues. Complete and full sentences reflect full and complete thoughts.
2. **USE THE DOCUMENTS!!!** This may not always be possible, but it usually is. There is a difference in quality of answers:
 - a. **With the overthrow of the Provisional Government, which organization will be in power?**
 - i. **The Soviet** *correct, but insufficient. Incomplete sentence, no context, no reference to the document. No marks will be earned.*
 - ii. **The Soviets will take power.** *Correct, and a full sentence. No reference to the document. Only part marks may be earned.*
 - iii. **The congress will take power and then transfer local authority to the Soviets.** *A full sentence that uses the phrasing in the document, reflecting a correct reading, and application of that reading to answer the question. Full marks.*
 - iv. **“The Congress hereby resolves to take government power”, and “all local authority shall be transferred to the Soviets of the Workers’, Soldiers’, and Peasants’ Deputies.”** *Correct, and makes use of quotes. Best answer, always full marks!*