



## **History A Level Bridging Work**

This bridging work is designed to support your transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 by helping you develop the core skills required for A Level History. At A Level, greater emphasis is placed on engaging with interpretations, analysing historical arguments, and conducting independent research.

You will begin by reading extracts written by historians, identifying and summarising their key arguments and supporting evidence. You will also use these interpretations to analyse the extent of change.

In addition, you will carry out your own research using a range of sources to deepen your understanding of the topic and begin to think critically about how history is constructed. This work will build your confidence in the skills needed for success at A Level.

### **Section A: Russia February – October 1917**

TASK 1: Read the historical text on Russia in 1917 carefully.

Your task is to break down the information and begin thinking like a historian by identifying the key ideas and analysing how change happened.

#### **Part A: Summarising the text**

For each paragraph:

- Write **one concise bullet point** that summarises the *main idea*
- Focus on the most important information (not every detail)
- Try to use your own words where possible

#### **Part B: Analysing change**

At the end of each section, complete the analytical task provided.

TASK 2: Write an analytical paragraph

Using the information from Task 1, answer the question: **'To what extent had Russia changed from February 1917 to October 1917?'**



Write a short analytical paragraph of approximately **100 words**.

In your answer, you should use evidence from the text and think carefully about both **change and continuity**.

**To help you structure your paragraph, consider the following questions:**

- What were the main changes in Russia between February and October 1917?
- Were these changes political, social, economic, or a combination?
- How significant were these changes? Did they have a major impact?
- What stayed the same during this period?
- Do the changes outweigh the continuities, or is it the other way around?
- Overall, how far did Russia really change during this period?

You should aim to:

- Make a clear overall judgement
- Support your ideas with specific evidence
- Explain *why* the changes or continuities are important

## **Section B: What was the GDR?**

### **Task**

#### **1. Contextual Reading & Timeline Task**

- Create a timeline (1945–1961) showing key events that led to the formation of the GDR.
  - BBC Bitesize: Cold War and Germany
  - YouTube: CrashCourse – Cold War episodes
- **Extension:** Add West Germany events to compare developments.

#### **2. Key Concepts Glossary**



Define and explain the following terms:

- Cold War
- Iron Curtain
- Berlin Blockade
- Stasi
- Propaganda
- SED

## **Wider reading:**

### *Russia 1917-1991*

- <http://alphahistory.com/coldwar/communist-russia/> - how Russia was governed.
- Orlando Figes: (Top Russian historian) <http://www.revolutionaryrussia.com/>
- British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/russian-revolution>
- Historical Association Podcasted history of Russia and the USSR (2010)  
Username: 12723 Password: trinity123:  
[www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary\\_resource\\_4209\\_124.html](http://www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary_resource_4209_124.html)
- 'Meet the Historians' podcasts: [www.andallthat.co.uk/meetthehistorians.html](http://www.andallthat.co.uk/meetthehistorians.html)  
(Episode 1: Professor Bill Taubman on Khrushchev and Episode 3: Dr Martin McCauley on the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.)
- Question and answer session with Dr Martin McCauley:  
[www.andallthat.co.uk/11/category/breakup-of-ussr/1.html](http://www.andallthat.co.uk/11/category/breakup-of-ussr/1.html)

### *GDR*

- <http://alphahistory.com/coldwar/post-war-germany/> - how East Germany was formed.
- [http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/vtc/2017-18/17-18\\_2-25/PDF/eduqas-revised-germany-5.pdf](http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/vtc/2017-18/17-18_2-25/PDF/eduqas-revised-germany-5.pdf) - a good summary chapter from a textbook.
- BBC History website - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/> - Series of articles on the Cold War.
- The National Archives Website - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/coldwar/> - a specialist section on the Cold War
- *Beyond the Wall* by Katja Hoyer