

Overview

We look forward to welcoming you to the History Department. Our exam board is Edexcel and we study Route E: Communist States in the 20th Century. The course covers:

- Russia 1917-91
- Mao's China 1949-76
- Protest, Agitation and Parliamentary Reform in Britain 1780-1928
- Coursework on Historical interpretations of Lenin and Stalin

We suggest focusing on Russian History before starting in September.

Activities

1) Historians and teachers of Russian history use many specialist terms that might be unfamiliar to you or even have different meanings. For each term in the grid, think about whether you have heard of them before or know what they mean. If not, perhaps you could look up the definitions:

Communism	Socialism	Peasantry	Proletariat	Industry
Capitalism	Revolution	Ideology	Marxism	Agriculture

2) In preparation for the Russian unit do some research on the leaders during this period

- a) Vladimir Lenin
- b) Joseph Stalin
- c) Nikita Khrushchev
- d) Leonid Brezhnev
- e) Mikhail Gorbachev

For each one, look at how they got into power, their achievements and failures and a judgement on whether the country was in a better position at the end of their reign.

Russian History Podcasts

◇ <http://smarthistories.com/podcasts-3/> This gives a list of podcasts that cover the whole course 1917-1991. Start with the ones from 'Russian Revolution' and go up to the ones in 'Stagnation and Perestroika'.

◇ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04lwmm0> from the BBC World Service

Films & TV

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EORQJhrfPpY> Stalin documentary part 1
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgtMfypVPDM> Stalin documentary part 2
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fiy01Tw8Vc> Stalin documentary part 3
- **The Death of Stalin (2017)** – about the political squabbles following Stalin's death in 1953
- **Enemy at the Gates (2001)** – about the Battle of Stalingrad, 1942-3
- **Doctor Zhivago (1965)** – romance set during Russian Civil War, based on the controversial novel

You will probably have to subscribe to a streaming site as these aren't freely available on YouTube.

Reading

Course textbook and revision guide

- * 'Communist States in the 20th Century' Robert Bunce, Peter Clements, Andrew Flint
- * 'My Revision Notes: Edexcel A level Russia 1917-91 From Lenin to Yeltsin'

Fiction (When you have an overview of the period try these)

- * **Yevgeny Zamyatin 'We'**. Critical of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917
- * **Boris Pasternak 'Doctor Zhivago'**. If you've seen the film try the book
- * **Alexander Solzhenitsyn 'One day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'**. Set in a Soviet Labour Camp

Course Specifications

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/History/2015/teaching-and-learning-materials/A-%20guide-to-AS-and-A-level-History-from-2015.pdf>