**Bridging work for History**

### **Task 1: The Romanovs: Autocracy, Tradition, and Growing Discontent (2-3 hours)**

Objective: To understand the nature of Romanov rule, their historical legacy, and the social and political challenges they faced leading up to the 20th century.

Activities:

1. Research & Timeline:  
   * Task: Create a concise timeline (no more than one A4 page) of key Romanov rulers from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, highlighting significant events and reforms/reactions under each.
   * Focus Areas: Pay particular attention to:
     + The concept of Russian autocracy (divine right, unlimited power).
     + Attempts at modernization (e.g., Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Alexander II's reforms).
     + Periods of repression and conservatism (e.g., Nicholas I, Alexander III).
     + The social structure of Tsarist Russia (aristocracy, peasantry, emerging middle class, serfdom).
   * Resources: Use reputable historical websites, encyclopedias, and your textbooks.
2. **Source Analysis - Primary Source Excerpt:**  
   * Task: Read the following excerpt and answer the accompanying questions.
   * Source: From a letter by Alexandra Feodorovna (Tsarina Alexandra) to Nicholas II, December 1916.  
       
      "You are the master, you are the boss, you know best. Russia loves a strong hand. You must be firm, unshakeable... They long for you to reign absolutely, as your ancestors did, and as God wants you to. Do not permit yourself to be diverted by their whining, their complaints, their miserable speeches. Remember what the people are, a great mass, who must be led, not asked what they want."
   * Questions:
     + What does this excerpt reveal about Tsarina Alexandra's view of autocratic rule and the Russian people?
     + How might such beliefs have impacted Nicholas II's decision-making and his relationship with his subjects?
     + What potential problems could arise from this perspective during a time of crisis?

Useful information links and resources to use

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Peter-the-Great>

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/royal-family/peter-the-great/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/catherine_the_great.shtml>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Catherine-the-Great>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Romanov-dynasty>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0lbr0d7>

<https://shows.acast.com/dansnowshistoryhit/episodes/the-romano>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b06vmlcg/empire-of-the-tsars-romanov-russia-with-lucy-worsley> - Excellent documentary series