



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

MODERN HISTORY

ATAR YEAR 12

Unit 3 – Elective 2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–45
(World War I to the end of World War II)

Acknowledgement of Country

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Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course. Teachers must exercise their professional judgement as to the appropriateness of any they may wish to use.

Sample course outline

Modern History – ATAR Year 12

Semester 1 – Unit 3 – Modern nations in the 20th century

This outline is based on elective 2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–45 (World War I to the end of World War II).

The development of historical skills is intrinsic to the teaching of this unit. (This content is shown beneath this table.)

The impact of the following forces should be considered, where appropriate, throughout the unit:

- economic
- international relations
- leadership
- political
- social.

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the economic, political and social conditions in Russia in 1914 • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ autocracy ▪ communism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia’s geographical context • Russia’s economic context in 1914 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ industrialisation ▪ modernisation • Russia’s political context in 1914 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tsarist political structures and bureaucracy, including the <i>Okhrana</i> and Russian Orthodox Church, the concept of an empire and the Dumas ▪ political challenges to Tsarism and rising political opposition, including different groups ▪ the influence of different political and ideological ideas of the time such as autocracy and communism ▪ the role and impact of different political leaders of the time • Russia’s social context in 1914 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Russia’s social structure, including factors creating change, e.g. growth of urban working class ▪ growing discontent between social groups
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the economic, political and social conditions in Russia in 1914 • the internal divisions and crises within Russian society, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of World War I • the leadership of Tsar Nicholas II • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autocracy • communism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the outbreak of World War I and Russia’s place within Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reasons for going to war ▪ the significance of the Russian Army ▪ successes and failures, such as the Battles of Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes, and the Brusilov Offensive ▪ conditions on the home front ▪ the role of the Russian government throughout the crisis

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leadership of Tsar Nicholas II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the role of the Tsar in the war, including his decision to take personal control ▪ the impact of Tsarina Alexandra and Rasputin, including the Progressive Bloc and ‘ministerial leapfrogging’ <p>Task 1 Part A – Historical inquiry: Internal divisions and crises in Russian society (Issue: Week 2)</p>
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the internal divisions and crises within Russian society, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the impact of World War I ▪ the leadership of Tsar Nicholas II ▪ the causes and events of the February and October Revolutions in 1917, including the leadership of Vladimir Lenin • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ autocracy ▪ communism ▪ Leninism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the causes of the February Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social and economic discontent, including living conditions and mounting protests and demonstrations ▪ military losses and defections ▪ failure of political reform and rising political repression • the events of the February Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ demonstrations in Petrograd on 9 January 1917 commemorating Bloody Sunday ▪ evolving crisis and International Women’s Day 23 February 1917, including troop mutinies ▪ establishment of the Petrograd Soviet, including Order No. 1, and the Provisional Government (Dual Power) ▪ abdication of Tsar Nicholas II • the causes of October Revolution in 1917 (Bolshevik Revolution) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lenin’s return from exile and April Theses ▪ problems facing the Provisional Government, including the continuation of World War I, the land question, peasant unrest, national minorities and the economy ▪ Bolshevik agitation and propaganda, including Trotsky joining the Bolsheviks and the July Days ▪ leadership of Alexander Kerensky ▪ Kornilov Revolt ▪ decline of the Provisional Government and rising Bolshevik popularity ▪ formation of the Military Revolutionary Committee (MILREVCOM) and the Red Guard • the events of the October Revolution in 1917 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bolshevik seizure of power ▪ tactical moves, including fall of the Winter Palace (Provisional Government) and formation of Sovnarkom

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
		<p>Task 1 Part A – Historical inquiry: Internal divisions and crises in Russian society (Submit: Week 4)</p> <p>Task 1 Part B – In-class validation: Internal divisions and crises in Russian society (Week 4)</p>
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the causes, events and outcomes of the Russian Civil War, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the initial reforms and decrees of the Bolsheviks ▪ the nature of the opposition ▪ the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ▪ the leadership of Leon Trotsky ▪ the Red Terror ▪ the creation of the USSR • the economic changes that transformed Russia/USSR to 1945 and the impact on peasants and factory workers, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ War Communism ▪ The New Economic Policy (NEP) • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communism • Leninism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the causes, events and outcomes of the Russian Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the initial reforms and decrees of the Bolsheviks ▪ the changing structure of the government contributing to political instability ▪ Constituent Assembly Elections and opposition to the Bolsheviks ▪ the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ▪ the nature of the opposition, including the White forces, ‘pockets’ of resistance such as the Right Socialist Revolutionaries and Allied Intervention ▪ the leadership of Leon Trotsky, including the Red Army ▪ the Red Terror, including the role of Felix Dzerzhinsky as head of the Cheka ▪ War Communism, with a focus on nationalisation ▪ reasons for victory, including Kronstadt Uprising and rising peasant revolts throughout 1921, e.g. Tambov • the outcomes of the Russian Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10th Party Congress (March 1921), including the Ban on Factions and the New Economic Policy (tactical retreat) ▪ the creation of the USSR, including political liberalisation of the party and democratic centralism ▪ structure of the Government and the Party, including <i>Nomenklatura</i>
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the significance of Josef Stalin’s rise to power and the reasons for his success by 1929 • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ communism ▪ Leninism ▪ Stalinism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment of Lenin and Leninism, including his death and legacy • the struggle for power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ contenders for power following Lenin’s death ▪ nature of leadership and existence of political rivalry and factionalism within the party, including early moves against Trotsky, defeat of the left opposition (1924–1927) and defeat of the right (1927–1929) ▪ debates over economic policy ▪ ideological debate – permanent revolution v. socialism in one country ▪ the role of significant party members, such as Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev, Bukharin, Rykov, Tomsky and Krupskaya

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reasons for Stalin's success ▪ historical perspectives on the significance of the power struggle
9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the economic changes that transformed Russia/USSR to 1945 and the impact on peasants and factory workers, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the New Economic Policy (NEP) ▪ the Great Turn, collectivisation and the industrialisation of the Soviet Union • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ communism ▪ Stalinism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Great Turn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15th Party Congress (December 1927) ▪ the reasons for the Great Turn, such as autarky, military strength, grain supply and socialism ▪ exporting of grain to fund industrialisation ▪ the results of the New Economic Policy, including the emerging scissor crisis and kulaks ▪ the urban workforce • collectivisation and famine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the nature of agriculture in the Soviet Union ▪ reasons for collectivisation, including the process, dekulakization and peasant reaction ▪ the Great Famine, including the Holodomor in Ukraine ▪ results, issues and assessment • industrialisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gosplan and the Five-Year Plans ▪ results, issues and assessment, including achievements, Stakhanovism, the human cost and urbanisation ▪ the New Soviet Man <p>Task 2 – Explanation: The economic changes that transformed Russia/USSR to 1945 (Week 9)</p>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the social impact of communist policies to 1945 on women, education and the Russian Orthodox Church • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ communism ▪ Leninism ▪ Stalinism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the social impact of communist policies under Lenin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social welfare and the role of Alexandra Kollontai ▪ the impact on women, such as their position in society, employment, their role in the family, abortion and divorce ▪ education, including literacy and youth organisations (e.g. Komsomol) ▪ impact on the Russian Orthodox Church, including atheism and Union of the Militant Godless • social and cultural changes and impacts under Stalin, including the Cultural Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ impact on education, including the role of youth organisations such as the Komsomol ▪ impact on education, including the 1935 Education Law ▪ the Great Retreat, including the impact of the upheavals on women such as divorce

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the methods employed by the Stalinist regime to control society, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ propaganda and the arts ▪ repression ▪ the Purges ▪ Show Trials ▪ the Great Terror • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ autocracy ▪ communism ▪ Leninism ▪ Stalinism 	<p>and abortion rates in the 1930s and the introduction of the 1936 Family Code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methods employed by Stalinist regime to control society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use of propaganda and the arts to control society, including socialist realism ▪ repression and use of force to suppress individuals and/or groups, including the Joint State Political Directorate (OGPU)/ People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) ▪ the 17th Party Congress and Kirov's murder ▪ the Purges and cleansing of the party (<i>Christka</i>) ▪ the Great Terror, including the show trials ▪ <i>Yezhovschina</i> ▪ death of Trotsky ▪ impact of the Great Terror and historical interpretations and explanations ▪ the role of Josef Stalin and his cult of personality • an assessment of Stalin and Stalinism through historical perspectives, including comparisons to Leninism and Tsarism <p>Task 3 – Source analysis: Significant ideas of the period; Stalinism (Week 12)</p>
13–14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the factors that enabled the USSR to secure victory in the Great Patriotic War • the significant ideas of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stalinism • the social impact of communist policies to 1945 on women, education and the Russian Orthodox Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief overview of Soviet Foreign Policy in the 1920s and 1930s, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the failure of permanent revolution and the Soviet Union's relationship with other European powers, including Germany (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) ▪ Germany's invasion of Poland, the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland ▪ invasion of Finland and seizure of Baltic States • the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945), including reasons for victory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operation Barbarossa (German invasion of the Soviet Union) ▪ Stalin's role, including the purging of the Red Army; initial losses; his leadership – Order 270 (fight to the last, no surrender, shoot deserters) and 227 (not one step back, defend the Soviet Union); his economic decision-making (including the Great Evacuation, Lend-Lease and agriculture); and use of the Russian Orthodox Church

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ military engagements and tactics throughout the war, including the Battle of Stalingrad (including Operation Uranus and Winter Storm), and other significant battles such as Rzhev, Kursk and Bagration, and the scorched earth policy ▪ the role of other significant military leaders such as Chuikov, Zhukov, Vasilevsky, Konev and Beria ▪ the impact of social forces on the outcome of the war, including Russian nationalism and resilience, the role of women ▪ the role of political forces such as propaganda, STAVKA and the NKVD ▪ the impact of the war on the peasantry and factory workers
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation for Semester 1 Examination
16	Task 4 – Semester 1 Examination: Unit 3 content	

Historical skills

The following skills will be developed during this unit.

Chronology, terms and concepts

- identify links between events to understand the nature and significance of causation, continuity and change over time
- use historical terms and concepts in appropriate contexts to demonstrate historical knowledge and understanding

Historical questions and inquiry

- frame questions to guide inquiry and develop a coherent research plan for inquiry
- identify, locate and organise relevant information from a range of primary and secondary sources
- acknowledge and reference sources, as appropriate

Analysis and use of historical sources

- identify the message, origin, purpose and context of historical sources
- analyse and synthesise evidence from different types of historical sources
- evaluate the reliability and usefulness of historical sources

Perspectives and interpretations

- analyse and account for the different perspectives of individuals and groups in the past
- evaluate different historical interpretations of the past and how they are shaped by the historian's perspective
- evaluate the significance of ideas, events and people

Explanation and communication

- develop texts that integrate appropriate evidence from a range of sources to explain the past and to sustain an argument
- communicate historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms