TSAR (until 1917):

Autocracy
- All power (social, political, economic, military, religious) lies in the hands of a single individual who has absolute power and rules by divine right
- No form of opposition
- Majority of the peasant population were ignorant, illiterate and superstitious- believed the Tsar had been chosen by God

Event: Russo-Japanese War (1904-05):
- Russia suffered a disastrous performance
- Defeat at the hands of a small Asian nation undermined Russian prestige
- 56,000 Russians died in battle or of disease
- Treaty of Portsmouth- Japan gained Russian Territories (Port Arthur)
- Sparked flames of revolution

Event: 1905 Revolution

Beginnings of Revolution
- Shortages of food, jobs and housing
- Floundering economy and harvest failures
- Russo-Japanese War- minister of War was attempting to boost national pride
- Demoralisation and anger dominated Russia
- Tsar’s unwillingness to compromise his autocratic powers

Bloody Sunday
- 9 January 1905, huge protest march of 100,000 working class men, women and children lead by Father Gapon
- Sang hymns, national anthem and held pictures of the Tsar
- Petition of grievances (poor working hours, wages and conditions)
- Troops shot into the crowd as they approached the winter palace (200 killed and 800 injured)
- “Nicholas the little father” to “Nicholas the bloody”
- Strikes erupted across the nation

1905 Revolution
- Eruption of strikes and outbursts followed Bloody Sunday
- Spontaneous and unorganised outburst
- Paralysed economy
- Nationalities demanded an end to Russification
- Growth of revolutionary groups
- Once the Russo-Japanese war ended the revolution lacked momentum
- Tsar kept in power through loyalty of the army

October Manifesto
- 17 October 1905
- First crack in the autocracy
- Freedom of speech, conscience, assembly and association
- Limitations to the Tsars autocratic rule
- Parliament (Duma)
- Land- Take land from landowners and distribute among peasants

- “All power to the soviets”: - Build up a Bolshevik support base through the Soviet

**June Offensive**
- Kerensky (Minister of War) led a huge offensive on South-Western front
- Kerensky hoped victory would rally PG support
- Massive casualties- proved the disintegration of the army and PGs failure to respond to the peoples demands
- Kornilov demanded military discipline immediately be restored

**July Days**
- 2 July 1917- Trotsky gave a rousing speech against PG
- 3-6 July 1917- ½ million protestors against PG
- 20,000 Kronstadt sailors and Putilov steel workers joined
- Soviet blamed for uprising which PG crushed
- Bolsheviks blamed- Trotsky arrested, Lenin fled to Finland, HQ taken over, Pravda closed
- PG allegedly found documents to prove German funding for party activities- Kerensky accused Bolsheviks of treason

**Kornilov Affair**
- Kornilov- Army’s supreme commander (late July 1917)
- Demanded stricter discipline in army (death penalty) and wanted to outlaw strikes, anti-socialist
- Kerensky- feared removal of power and military dictatorship
- Late August 1917- Kornilov dismissed by Kerensky, Kornilov believed there had been a Bolshevik coup and ordered troops to march into Petrograd
- Kerensky released and armed Bolshevik prisoners to protect Petrograd
- Revolt was easily and immediately stopped- Bolsheviks hailed heroes
- July days forgotten

**People: Kerensky, Trotsky**

**Alexander Kerensky**
- Ultimate root of failure was his determination to maintain Russia’s war effort against Germany
- As Prime Minister of the Provisional Government he lived in the Winter Palace, travelled on the royal train and lived a life of luxury
Education
- 1920’s- discipline and examinations abolished
- 1932- rigid programme, disciplines and exams re-introduced
- Curriculum state controlled
- History- purges of party members (photos pasted out of textbooks), ‘A short History of the USSR (issued by Stalin, enhance role in Revolution)

Youth
- Political youth groups outside of school
- Octobrists- 8-10
- Pioneers- 10-16
- Komsomol- 19-23
- Political ideology taught through sports, camping and model-making

Women
- Mid 1930s- free love, easy abortion and divorce abandoned
- Family back in favour- state encouraged families to stay together through propaganda (street kids- divorces)
- Paid child allowances for married couples
- Working gains maintained until end of 1930s when more femanised representations made a comeback

Living Standards
- Rose only slightly in the 1930s- still shortages (food)
- High ranking part officials and skilled workers did very well
- Resources put into health services- increase in facilities and doctors
- Housing remained a problem with little improvement (6% of houses had more than one room)
- Slight progress in new industrial towns by end of 1930s

Leisure
- Sport and fitness encouraged- improve in health
- Workers- entitled to one holiday per year (never before)
- Trade Unions and Collective Farms- Clubs, sports facilities, film shows, festivals and entertainment
- Magnitogorsk- 10 cinemas

Religion
- 1930s- attacks on the church
- League of the Godless- smash churches, burn religious pictures
- Baptists and priests sent to labour camps