- Aims:
  o To create a more educated workforce in response to the needs of industrialisation
  o To indoctrinate youths in Communist ideology
- Implementation:
  o The People’s Commissariat for Enlightenment sought to increase education opportunities for the working class
  o 1930: all children were required to have a minimum of 4 years primary education
  o 1939: all children required to have 7 years schooling
  o Children’s books were used to discuss and inspire belief in the Soviet cause
  o Youth Movement:
    ▪ Such as the Young Communist League and the Little Octobrists were formed
    ▪ While these were implemented under Lenin, they were refined and reappropriated for pro-Communist ends under Stalin
    ▪ Loyalty to Stalin was emphasised
    ▪ Espionage was encouraged, especially during the denunciation of kulaks in Collectivisation
- Results:
  o Between 1913 and 1939, adult male literacy rose from 40% to 94%
    ▪ Stalin had to increase literacy rates so that propaganda could be written and not just visual

The Arts:

- In the 1920s, due to the NEP and Western influence, more experimentation was allowed within the arts
- After Lenin’s death and during Stalin’s rise, the arts took a step backward within the USSR
  o They returned to quasi-naturalism
- Communism regularly sent the arts back to a suppressed and backward state compared with other nations at the time

Status of Women, Treatment of Religious Groups and Minorities:

Status of Women:

- While following the Bolshevik Revolution, divorce was made easier to get and abortion legalised
- Stalin reversed these decisions
- He sought a return to traditional values in order to increase Russia’s population
- However, during the 1930s he apparently reversed this by encouraging women to work in factories, providing crèche and canteen facilities