



Course Content

PAPER 1: Russia 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

This topic comprises a study in breadth, in which students will learn about the key political, social and economic features of communist rule in Russia during the twentieth century, an era that saw its authority and influence rise to the status of a superpower, only to diminish and decline later in the century.

The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale, and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1917–85. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question, which is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: reasons for the fall of the USSR, c1985–91. Communist Government in the USSR, 1917–85, Industrial and agricultural change, 1917–85, Control of the people, 1917–85, Social developments, 1917–85, What explains the fall of the USSR, c1985–91?

PAPER 2: Mao's China, 1949-76

This topic comprises a study in depth of the transformation of communist China in the years 1949–76. The aftershocks of these changes are still being felt today as China emerges as a great economic and political power on the world stage.

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the nature and extent of change in this period, the effects of Mao Zedong's policies on the lives of the Chinese people, and Mao's role in driving dramatic political, social and economic changes. Establishing communist rule, 1949–57, Agriculture and industry, 1949–65, The Cultural Revolution and its aftermath, 1966–76, Social and cultural changes, 1949–76.

PAPER 3 (A-Level only): Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509

This topic comprises two parts: the Aspects in breadth focus on long-term changes and contextualise the Aspects in depth, which focus in detail on key episodes. Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the dramatic developments in late medieval England that centred around the personalities and political skills of a series of kings, queens and their powerful subjects, and the impact of these developments on the kingdom. Within the primarily political focus on the nature of kingship and authority in England, this option also explores the wider social and economic contexts of political struggle.

Assessment

Paper	Title	Assessment	AS	A Level
1	Russia 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin	Written Exam	60%	-
2	Mao's China, 1949-76	Written Exam	40%	-
1	Russia 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin	Written Exam	-	30%
2	Mao's China, 1949-76	Written Exam	-	20%
3	Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509	Written Exam	-	30%
-	Topic relating to Paper 1 or 2	Non-exam assessment	-	20%