

MARKSCHEME

1. “Alexander II tried to reform Russian institutions only because the Crimean War showed that Russia was no longer a great military power.” Use specific examples of Alexander’s reforms to show to what extent you agree with this assertion.

This is another way of asking for the aims and motives of Alexander’s reforms. Is it true to say that Alexander was only trying to preserve the Russian monarchy and/or her status as one of the great European powers by reforming the army and thus increasing Russia’s military potential. Did his emancipation of the serfs have no humanitarian motive? Candidates should consider Alexander’s key reforms in the light of the quotation and make considered judgments about them. A satisfactory to good answer should consider, as well as the army reforms and Emancipation Act, at least two of his other important reforms, such as local government, law, education, the press. Top answers may consider his failure to introduce a national duma and its implications.

[0 to 7 marks] answers will be general and the comments unsatisfactory.

[8 to 10 marks] answers will be mainly narrative with implicit assessment.

[11 to 13 marks] answers will contain adequate specific examples of reforms and explicit comments on motives.

[14 to 16 marks] answers will analyse the quotation, aims and motives and show how they are reflected in the reforms.

[17+ marks] will be scored by full analysis of aims, based on the quotation, with assessment of what Alexander failed to do as well as what he did.

2. “Alexander II had no one to blame but himself for his assassination in 1881.” How far do you agree with this statement?

The question requires candidates to identify and examine Alexander’s actions and policies, the motives behind them and the extent to which their results led to his assassination. Weaker candidates may limit their answers to the emancipation of the serfs whereas better responses would include an analysis of problems and attempted solutions which led to expectations of change by groups from differing backgrounds. These expectations were largely unfulfilled which led to radical revolutionary activity and attempts on Alexander’s life. Marks should be awarded for exact focus, clear argument and depth of analysis.

[0 to 7 marks] for descriptive and simplistic accounts of actions/policies carried out by Alexander which will be incomplete.

[8 to 10 marks] for some mention of Alexander’s actions/policies and their results but with only very superficial/implicit linkage to his motives/results.

[11 to 13 marks] for answers that include a more detailed account of Alexander’s

actions/policies and which start to develop arguments either supporting or refuting the statement.

[14 to 16 marks] for appropriately selected actions/policies, where the line of argument is clearer and where it is supported by solid evidence of Alexander's culpability although analysis might not be fully developed.

[17+ marks] for answers which carefully select those actions/policies that support/refute the statement and which provide a clear, consistent and thorough analysis of the relationship between them and the question.

3. For what reasons, and with what results, did Alexander II try to reform Russian institutions?

Reasons will no doubt include "the necessity to reform from above", to preserve tsardom, to modernize in order to strengthen Russia, and perhaps to liberalize. Results are usually well known factually: liberation of the serfs with its successes and failures; reforms of the army, education, judiciary and local government *etc.* Better candidates may then consider the wider results - dissatisfaction and opposition increased because expectations were raised but not fulfilled, *e.g.* no National Assembly, and finally, Alexander was assassinated.

[0 to 7 marks] for unsubstantiated generalizations.

[8 to 10 marks] for a description of reforms with implicit reasons and results.

[11 to 13 marks] for explicit reasons and results.

[14 to 16 marks] for answers focused and structured on reasons and results.

[17+ marks] for balance and perhaps a challenge to the usual assumptions.

4. Analyse the reasons for, and the nature of, opposition to tsardom in Russia between 1855 and 1894.

The dates given in the question cover the reigns of Alexander II and Alexander III. Reasons for opposition to these Tsars stemmed from the autocratic nature of tsarist rule and the backward state of Russia both economically and politically. Alexander II realized the danger to tsardom and did introduce reforms, especially emancipating the serfs, to try to stem the opposition, but he failed to introduce a national duma. Alexander III, shocked by his father's assassination, and following his own inclination, followed a policy of repression throughout his reign.

The opposition was varied and included political activists, revolutionaries, peasants and workers. Many nobles also opposed various policies, especially emancipation, and educational reforms led to increased opposition movements which advocated violence. It would be relevant to discuss opposition to individual policies.

[0 to 7 marks] for general, inaccurate or inadequate comments.

[8 to 10 marks] for narrative answers, especially those based primarily on Alexander II's reforms.

[11 to 13 marks] for better focus, assessment and balance.

[14 to 16 marks] for structured analytical answers, which address both tsars.

[17+ marks] for perceptive analysis, and balance between both tsars and between reasons and nature.

5. “The emancipation of the serfs in Russia was the only genuine reform introduced by Alexander II.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion?

The quotation should be used to structure an answer on the reforms of Alexander II.

Candidates could do this in various ways: they could agree with the quotation and analyse the emancipation of 1861, showing it to be a genuine reform; they could do this and also note other reforms such as, army, judiciary, education, local government, *etc.* which they also consider to be genuine reforms; they could point out the weaknesses in the emancipation and show that other reforms were more “genuine”; they could criticize the quotation and argue that no reforms were “genuine”, but passed in order to preserve the Tsar's authority. It is hoped that whichever argument they adopt, they will not just describe reforms with no analysis or reference to the set question.

[8 to 10 marks] for an account of some reforms.

[11 to 13 marks] for addressing the emancipation in a focused manner.

[14 to 16 marks] for a focused, structured and analytical answer.

[17+ marks] for in-depth analysis and perhaps different interpretations of the emancipation act and its consequences.

6. To what extent did the reforms of Alexander II change Russian society by 1881?

The question requires that candidates consider the merits or otherwise of the suggestion that the reforms of Alexander II changed Russian society. The main reforms such as the Emancipation of the Serfs and local government reform should be examined in relation to their impact on Russian society. Candidates may argue that the most radical change was to the principles that governed Russian society; the idea of freedom of the individual was introduced with the abolition of serfdom and the notion of equal justice with legal reforms. Candidates may argue that Russian society remained hierarchical with the monarchy, Church and nobility at the top and the peasantry, despite notional freedom, still largely enslaved by the Mir and the obligation to pay Redemption Dues. Other major reforms include education and military reforms, and their impact on society could be considered.

**CONVERSION – OLD GRADES (MAX 20) BEFORE 2017 TO
NEW GRADES (MAX 15) AFTER 2017**

FROM

*[0 to 7 marks]
[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 13 marks]
[14 to 16 marks]
[17+ marks]*

TO

*[0 to 5 marks]
[6 to 7 marks]
[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 12 marks]
[13+ marks]*

OR

FROM

*[0 to 7 marks]
[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 13 marks]
[14 to 16+ marks]*

TO

*[0 to 5 marks]
[6 to 7 marks]
[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 12+ marks]*

OR

FROM

*[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 13 marks]
[14 to 16+ marks]*

TO

*[6 to 7 marks]
[8 to 10 marks]
[11 to 12+ marks]*