

Title: To what extent were the failings of the provisional government responsible for the success of the Bolshevik Revolution?

Criterion A: 4 marks

The question is clearly stated and appropriate. The candidate has selected two relevant sources; one secondary source – a textbook for advanced history studies (“*Communist Russia under Lenin and Stalin*”) written in 2008 and one primary contemporary source – a book written by John Reed (“*Ten Days that Shook the World*”). The relevance of these sources has been explained and there is an evaluation of the value and limitations of these sources, but this evaluation could expand a bit. One odd thing though is the fact that the Reed source is only mentioned one time in the investigation – maybe one other source should have been evaluated.

Criterion B: 11 marks

The investigation is well structured. It’s focused and the arguments are clear with appropriate support (evidence). Several comments show a certain analytic approach, but the candidate could have pointed out more the differences between historians, emphasized some perspectives (Richard Pipes is a good example of alternative perspectives of the Russian revolutions). The conclusion could also be developed more.

Criterion C: 2 marks

A lot of focus on the candidates own investigation without a good example. It would have been good with more input of the historian methods and the problems historians face – and then a comparison with some sample from the candidate’s text.

Total: 17 marks