

5th form transition week 2

Week 2 – Task 1

Quick fact test

1. How much of the world's total land mass did Russia cover in the mid C19th and how many times would Britain fit into it?
2. The nobility had received landed estates from Tsars in the C17th. In return they provided key services. Name two of these.
3. Give two pieces of information about serfdom in Russia.
4. What was the Mir?
5. Give two reasons why agricultural production was backward.
6. What was the state of industry?
7. What role did the Russian Orthodox Church play in society?
8. Explain the term 'autocracy'.
9. What was the Imperial Council?
10. What was the 'Third Section'?

Task 2

Quick spider diagram

How and why was Russia backward in 1855?

Colour code your reasons into social, economic and political reasons.

Which of these do you think was the most important factor and why?

Task 3

The Crimean War 1853-1856

As you already know Alexander II, the first Tsar who we look at on our course, was responsible for introducing far reaching reforms, including freeing or emancipating the serfs.

We are going to look at the reasons why he introduced reforms into Russia. One significant reason is seen as being Russia's defeat in the Crimean War, which happened just as Alexander II came to the throne.

You don't need to know the ins and outs of the war itself, but you do need to know how and why its defeat contributed to the emancipation of the serfs.

Use p8 from the scan I sent last week to make a brief fact file of the Crimean War. Add a map and mark on it the Crimea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Ottoman Empire.

Then watch Armchair History on the Crimean War – remember you don't need all the details, you're watching this for background only.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCehIRiBjBk>

Read all of p8 of the scan and explain how and why the Crimean War shocked Russia into introducing reform. You can list the reasons as bullet points, but remember to give detail where you can.

Task 4

Why did Alexander II emancipate the serfs?

Just for some background watch Land of the Tsars 16 and 17. Jot down anything that suggests reasons for reform – there's very little until the end of 16 but it does give you a general understanding of Russia. The links are below, but you can easily find it on youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXPP1jlyahg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PFQ7Th_rAs

You are now going to do a key piece of work. It's an essay, and you will answer the question below. You will need to note the attached pages first as they will really help you formulate your answer. Aim to write approximately a side and a half.

The most important reason why Alexander II emancipated the serfs was because of economic factors. Do you agree? Explain your answer.

You might chose to write this like a GCSE 16 marker – that is discussing the factor in the qu and two other reasons, showing links between them and then evaluating which reason is the most important.

However, if you want to do it slightly differently that's fine too – just make sure you focus on the qu and write enough and include precise details.