

THE LEARNIFY ACADEMY

CLASS IX SOCIAL SCIENCE

SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. Suffragette Movement means a movement to give women the right to
(a) **vote**
(b) equality
(c) property
(d) None of these
2. According to Karl Marx, what characterised an industrial society?
(a) **Capitalism**
(b) Socialism
(c) Feudalism
(d) Communism
3. They felt only men with property should have the vote and women should not have the vote. Who were they?
(a) Democrats
(b) **Liberals**
(c) Radicals
(d) Conservatives
4. Who thought that private property is the root of all social ills of the time?
(a) **Socialists**
(b) Democrats
(c) None of these
(d) Liberals
5. Who was Robert Owen?
(a) A leading English manufacturer
(b) A socialist who believed in the idea of cooperatives
(c) **Both (a) and (b)**
(d) None of the above
6. At the beginning of the 20th century, the vast majority of Russia's people was
(a) **Agriculturists**
(b) Industrialists
(c) Teachers
(d) Lawyers
7. Prominent industrial area (s) in Russia was/were
(a) Moscow
(b) Petrograd
(c) St Petersburg
(d) **Both (a) and (c)**
8. When was Russia's railway network extended?
(a) In 1850s
(b) **In 1890s**
(c) In 1900s
(d) In 1920s
9. When was the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party founded?

(a) In 1898

(c) In 1890

(b) In 1895

(d) In 1910

10. When did the USSR socialism become a global face and world stature?

(a) At the time of the outbreak of the Second World War

(b) At the time of the First World War.

(c) At the time of the Civil War

(d) None of the above

11. Consider the following statements and choose the right one.

(a) Jadidists were the Muslim scholars within the Russian empire.

(b) Jadidists were the Muslim landlords within the Russian empire.

(c) Jadidists were the Sufi philosophers within the Russian empire.

(d) Jadidists were the Muslim reformers within the Russian empire.

12. Consider the following statements and choose the right one.

(a) Kulaks are rich farmers of Russia

(b) Kulaks are poor farmers of Russia

(c) Kulaks are workers of Russia

(d) Kulaks are metal workers of Russia

13. Find the incorrect option.

(a) Robert Owen was a leading French manufacturer

(b) Robert Owen built a cooperative community called 'New Harmony' in Indiana (USA).

(c) Louis Blanc wanted the government to encourage cooperative

(d) Louis Blanc wanted to replace capitalist enterprises.

14. Find the incorrect option.

(a) The First World War had a severe impact on industry of Russia.

(b) By 1917, railway lines began to break down in Russia.

(c) Able-bodied men were called up to the war.

(d) For the people in the cities of Russia, bread and flour became scarce.

15. In 1914, Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia and its empire. The Russian Empire included territory around Moscow, present day Finland Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. How was the economy and society during the Tsar Nicholas II reign? Competency Based?

(a) Industries were very few in number; prominent industrial areas were St Petersburg and Moscow.

(b) Russia was a major importer of grain in the Empire.

(c) Many factories were set up in the 1790's.

(d) Most of the industries were government owned.

16. During the revolution of 1905, liberals wanted to end the autocratic state of affairs. They joined hands with social democrats and socialist revolutionaries worked with peasants and workers to demand a Constitution.

One of the most likely reasons responsible for the 1905 revolution was.

(a) In 1903, industrial action was introduced.

(b) In 1904, prices of essential goods declining so quickly.

(c) Real wages of the workers decreased by 20 per cent.

(d) No members of the Putilov Iron works were dismissed.

17. Some Russian socialists felt that the Russian peasant custom of dividing land periodically made them natural socialists. So peasants, not workers, would be the main force of the revolution, and Russia could become socialist more quickly than other countries. Socialists were active in the countryside through the late 19th century. They formed the Socialist Revolutionary Party in 1900." The main difference between Socialist Revolutionaries and Social Democrats regarding the peasantry was

(a) Socialist Revolutionaries believed peasants wouldn't need a revolution, while Social Democrats believed they would.

- (b) Socialist Revolutionaries focused on land redistribution, while Social Democrats focused on worker's rights.
- (c) Socialist Revolutionaries viewed peasants as naturally socialist, while Social Democrats saw them as a diverse group.
- (d) Socialist Revolutionaries advocated for violent revolution. while Social Democrats preferred peaceful means.

18. 'Perhaps one of the most far-reaching visions of how society should be structured was socialism. By the mid-19th century in Europe, socialism was a well-known body of ideas that attracted widespread attention.

Choose the correct option about the Coming of Socialism in Europe. Competency Based

- (a) Socialists were against private property, and saw it as the root of all social ills of the time.
- (b) Marx argued that industrial society was not 'capitalist'.
- (c) Socialists felt that cooperatives could be built on a wide scale only through individual initiative.
- (d) Cooperatives were to be associations of people who produced goods alone and keep the profits with himself.

19. Rapid construction led to poor working conditions for workers. In Magnitogorsk, a steel plant was constructed in three years. Workers did not have even basic facilities of toilet, health care, etc.

Which measure was taken to improve status of workers?

- (a) An extended schooling system was developed and arrangement were made for factory workers and peasants to enter universities.
- (b) Costly Public healthcare was provided.
- (c) No model living quarters were made for workers.
- (d) Creches (day boarding) were not established in factories for the children of women workers

20. Arrange the following in sequence.

- I. Formation of Comintern
- II. Formation of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party
- III. Beginning of Collectivisation

- (a) i. ii. iii
- (b) I, II, III
- (c) III, II, I
- (d) ii, III, I

21. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer.

Statement i Socialists took over the government in Russia through the October Revolution of 1917.

Statement II The fall of monarchy in February 1917 and the events of October are normally called the Russian Revolution.

Codes

- (a) Statement I is correct and II is incorrect.
- (b) Statement I is incorrect and II is correct
- (c) Both I and II are incorrect
- (d) Both I and II are correct

22. Which of the following statements accurately describes a "Conservatives were emerged during the age of social change in Europe."? Competency Based

i. They opposed the views of Radicals and Liberals.

ii. They wanted change but at a slow pace.

III. They supported the Government based on majority or country's population.

IV. They supported private property but disliked concentration of property in the hand of few.

Codes

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only III
- (c) Only IV
- (d) Both I and II

23. During the Industrial Revolution, many changes came in the society and economy. What were these changes?

- i. Women and children were not working in factories.
- II. Unemployment was not common due to high demand for industrial goods.
- III. New cities, new industrial regions and new railway lines were developed.
- IV. Working hours were often long and wages were poor

- (a) Only I
- (b) Both III and IV
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Only II

24. The incident known as Bloody Sunday and started a series of events that became known as 1905 revolution. These events were

- i. Trend of strikes spread all over the country.
- II. Universities closed down when students complaining about the lack of civil liberties.
- III. Doctors, lawyers, engineers and other middle-class workers established the Union of Unions and demanded a Constituent Assembly.
- IV. A large number of trade unions and factory committees consisted of factory workers also existed for short time.

Codes

- (a) Statements I and II are appropriate.
- (b) Statements I, II and III are appropriate.
- (c) All the statements are appropriate
- (d) Only statement IV is appropriate.

25. Consider the statements about the February Revolution in Petrograd and choose the correct answer. Competency Based

Statement I On 22nd February, a lockout took place at a factory. This led to protests and strikes against the factory joined by women. This day came to be known as International Women's Day

Statement II In February 1917, there was acute shortage of food in Russia which made the life of workers very difficult. Parliamentarians opposed the Tsar's desire to dissolve the Duma.

Codes

- (a) Statement I is correct and II is incorrect.
- (b) Statement I is incorrect and II is correct
- (c) Both I and II are incorrect
- (d) Both I and II are correct

Case Based Question

1. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow.

> Socialists had different visions of the future. Some believed in the idea of cooperatives. Robert Owen (1771-1858), a leading English manufacturer, sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA). Other socialists felt that cooperatives could not be built on a wide scale only through individual initiative: they demanded that governments encourage cooperatives. In France, for instance, Louis Blanc (1813-1882) wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises. These cooperatives were to be associations of people who produced goods together and divided the profits according to the work done by members. Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) added other ideas to this body of arguments. Marx argued that industrial society was 'capitalist'. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.

(i) How did some socialists view the potential of cooperatives?

- (a) They believed cooperatives could only be successful on a small scale, led by individuals like Robert Owen.
- (b) They considered cooperatives a viable alternative to capitalist enterprises and advocated for government support.
- (c) They saw cooperatives as an unrealistic ideal impractical in the real world.
- (d) They felt government involvement would hinder the organic growth of cooperative communities.

(ii) What was the core idea of Louis Blanc's proposal for French cooperatives?

- (a) They would be worker-owned and operated, sharing profits based on individual contributions.

- (b) They would receive financial incentives from the government to compete with capitalist businesses.
- (c) They would function as state-controlled enterprises, eliminating private ownership entirely.
- (d) They would focus on social welfare and community development rather than profit generation.

(iii) How did Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels differ from earlier socialists' views on cooperatives?

- (a) They embraced cooperatives as the primary pathway to a socialist society.
- (b) They criticised cooperatives as insufficient and emphasised the need for broader systemic change.
- (c) They believed cooperatives could function effectively within a capitalist framework.
- (d) They saw cooperatives as irrelevant to achieving their socialist goals.

(iv) What key takeaway can we draw from this passage about socialist visions of the future?

- (a) There was a single, unified socialist vision with no internal disagreements.
- (b) Socialistic ideas evolved over time, incorporating diverse perspectives on economic structures.
- (c) Cooperatives were universally considered the ideal model for a socialist future.
- (d) Government intervention was universally rejected by socialists in favor of purely private initiatives.

Ans. (i) (b) They considered cooperatives a viable alternative to capitalist enterprises and advocated for government support.

(ii) (a) They would be worker-owned and operated, sharing profits based on individual contributions.

(iii) (b) They criticised cooperatives as insufficient and emphasised the need for broader systemic change.

(iv) (b) Socialistic ideas evolved over time, incorporating diverse perspectives on economic structures.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What were the views of the liberals in 19th century Europe regarding Universal Adult Franchise?

Ans. The liberals were opposed to Universal Adult Franchise. They felt that only men of property should have the right to vote. They also did not want the vote for women.

2. Who opposed the ideas of both liberals and radicals?

Ans. Conservatives opposed the ideas of both liberals and radicals.

3. By the 19th century, how conservatives wanted a change in the society?

Ans. By the 19th century, conservatives wanted a slow change in society. They believed the change should be done by respecting the past.

4. How did the revolutionaries originate in the year 1815?

Ans. In France, Italy, Germany and Russia, some nationalist liberals and radicals became revolutionaries. They worked to overthrow existing monarchs.

5. Name the ruler of Russia at the start of the First World War.

Ans. Tsar Nicholas II was the ruler of Russia at the start of the First World War.

6. Which group of workers were regarded as aristocrats among workers?

Ans. The metal-workers were regarded as aristocrats among workers.

7. Mention the period of Civil War in Russia.

Ans. The period of Civil War in Russia was 1918-1920.

8. In the context of Russia, what was 'kolkhoz'?

Ans. Kolkhoz was the collective farm in Russia.

9. The event 'Bloody Sunday' was later on called by what name?

Ans. It was called as the 1905 Revolution.

10. After 1905, which elected representative body was formed in Russia?

Ans. The elected representative body formed in Russia after 1905 was the Duma.

11. What kind of members were incorporated in the Duma under the Tsar in Russia?

Ans. Conservatives politicians were incorporated members of the Duma under the Tsar in Russia.

12. All political parties were illegal in Russia before 1914. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in 1898 by socialists who respected Marx's ideas. Due to government policies, the party was operated secretly as an illegal organisation.

What was the role of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party in the political landscape of Russia before 1914?
Competency Basec

Ans. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party played a significant role in mobilising workers and organising strikes, despite being an illegal organisation due to government policies. They respected Marx's ideas and even started their own newspaper.

13. In the beginning of 20th century, Russia was still an autocracy and the Tsar was not responsible to the Parliament. During the revolution of 1905, liberals wanted to end this state of affairs.

(i) Who were the major participants in the 1905 revolution and what were their demands?

(ii) What led to the revolution of 1905 in Russia? Competency Based

Ans. (i) The major participants were liberals, social democrats and socialist revolutionaries. They demanded a Constitution and joined forces with peasants, workers, nationalists and Jadidists.

(ii) The 1905 revolution was triggered by rising prices of essential goods, reduction in real wages by 20%, and dismissal of workers at the Putilov Iron works.

14. When the procession of workers led by Father Gapon reached the Winter Palace it was attacked by the police and the Cossacks. Over 100 workers were killed and about 300 wounded. The incident, known as Bloody Sunday.'

How did the actions of Tsarist troops and authorities contribute to the bloodshed?

Ans. On Bloody Sunday, the Tsar's troops mistakenly fired at peaceful protesters, turning it into a violent event. The soldiers' fear and the authorities' lack of control contributed to the bloodshed.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who were the socialists in 19th century Europe? What kind of society did they envisage?

Ans. In the 19th century Europe, socialists were those who were against private property and saw it as the root of all social evils. They believed in the idea of cooperatives. In cooperatives, people made associations and produced goods together. The profits of the business were divided among all members of the association.

However, different socialists had different views regarding the society. Robert Owen, one of the founders of socialism, suggested that cooperatives should be built on individual initiative.

Other socialists like Louis Blanc wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises. These cooperatives were the associations of people who produced goods together and divided the profit according to their work.

2. Explain the concept of Karl Marx about socialist society.

Ans. Karl Marx (1818-1883) believed that the industrial society was capitalist. Capitalist owned the capital invested in factories and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.

The conditions of workers could not improve till the profit was accumulated by private capitalists. He believed that to remove capitalism, workers had to construct a radically socialist society in which all property would be socially controlled. This would be a communist society. He wanted the whole society to have common control over the means of production, all production units should be nationalised.

3. Describe the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels about the capitalists.

Ans. Both the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich were similar. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels gave a clear idea about how the society should be structured is socialism. Both of them argued that industrial society was capitalist. Capitalist owned the capital invested in factories. They accumulated wealth by the profit produced by the workers Workers were not getting any profit made by themselves.

Marx believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, the workers had to overthrow capitalism. By overthrowing (removing) capitalism, workers might stop the rule of private property. All property should be socially controlled. Where all properties were socially controlled, the society was turned into a socialist society, Marx and Engels suggested that the socialist society would be a communist society. To achieve this society which they thought as the natural society of the future, the workers must win over the capitalists.

4. Describe the economic condition of Russia before 1905.

Ans. The economic condition of Russia before 1905 is described below

- At the beginning of the 20th century, about 85 per cent of the Russian population was agriculturist, which was much higher than other European countries. Industry in Russia was developed in some pockets like
- St Petersburg and Moscow. Large factories existed alongside craft workshops. Many factories were set up in the 1890s due to the
- Extension of the railway network and the increase in foreign investment. Coal, iron and steel production increased.

5. Describe the conditions of the workers under the Tsar in Russia.

Or

Describe any three points regarding the condition of workers in Russia in the beginning of the 20th century.

Or

Explain the conditions of workers in Russia before 1917.

Ans. The following points state the conditions of workers under the Tsar in Russia before 1917

- In craft units and small workshops, sometimes, working hours were 15 hours, compared with 10-12 hours in big factories.
- Workers were divided into different social groups. Some had strong links with native villages, other permanently settled in towns.
- Workers were divided according to their skills. Metal workers were considered themselves aristocrats among other workers.
- Women consisted of 31 per cent of the factory labour force and they were paid less than men.
- Some workers formed associations to help members in time of unemployment or financial crisis. But, they were few in numbers

6. Why were socialists active in the countryside? Give three reasons.

- **Ans.** In Russia, socialists were active in the countryside through the late 19th century. They formed the Socialist Revolutionary Party in 1900, which struggled for peasants' rights.
- Due to following reasons, they were active in the countryside
- This party demanded that land belonging to nobles be transferred to peasants.
- Socialists believed that Russian peasants were different from other European peasants. In country side, they pooled their land together and their commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individual families. Socialist felt that this custom of dividing land made the Russian peasant as natural socialists.
- Socialist Revolutionaries believed that peasants, instead of workers, would be the main force of revolution. They pressed for a redistribution of land. Then, land committees were formed for the redistribution of lands Encouraged by this, peasants seized land in 1917.

7. Describe the main events which led to the February Revolution in Petrograd.

Ans. The main events which led to the February Revolution in Petrograd were

- On 22nd February, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank of the river Neva in Petrograd.
- On 23rd February, workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy. In many factories, women led the strikes. Government imposed a curfew, causing the demonstrators to disperse, but they came back on the 24th and 25th.
- On the 25th February, the Tsar suspended the Duma.
- This caused widespread anger. A delegation went to see the Tsar. Tsar resigned on the advice of the Military commanders on 2nd March.
- Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country.

8. Describe the incident known as 'Bloody Sunday'. State any two events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the Revolution of 1905 in Russia.

Ans. Bloody Sunday was an incident happened in Russia on 22nd January, 1905. In this day, the workers of Russia. led by Father Gapon, reached the Winter Palace of the Tsar to present a petition. But they were fired at indiscriminately by police and the Cossacks, resulting in the death of more than 100 workers with 300 workers wounded. This incident led to series of events, known as the 1905 Revolution

Two important events which were led to the Revolution of 1905 in Russia were

- Strikes took all over the country and universities of Russia were closed down when student bodies staged walkouts, complaining about the lack of civil liberties.
- Lawyers, doctors, engineers, middle class workers established a Union of Unions and demanded a Constituent Assembly.

9. Describe the events during the First World War.

Ans. The following events took place during the First World War

- In Russia, the First World War was initially popular and the policies of Tsar Nicholas II were supported by the people
- The First World War on the Eastern front differed from that on the Western front. In the West, armies fought from trenches, but in the East, armies moved a good deal and fought battles leaving large casualties.
- Russia's army lost badly in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916. There were over 7 million casualties by 1917. This defeat shocked and demoralised Russian army.
- As the German armies moved forward, the Russian army destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemy from being able to live off the land. The situation discredited the Russian Government and the Tsar. The Russian soldiers did not wish to fight such a war.

10. State any three effects of the First World War on the Russian economy.

Ans. The effects of the First World War on the Russian economy were

- (i) Russia had few industries and the country was cut off from other supplies of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea.
- (ii) Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than elsewhere in Europe. By 1916, railway lines began to break down.
- (iii) Able-bodied men were sent to fight the war. Thus, labour shortages resulted shutting down industries and small workshops producing essentials.

11. Examine three reasons for the success of socialist economy in post revolution Russia.

Ans. The reasons for the success of socialist economy in post revolution Russia were

- (i) The Bolsheviks nationalised industries and banks. A process of centralised planning was introduced. Officials assessed the condition of the economy and made the Five Year Plans on its basis.
- (ii) The government fixed all prices to promote industrial growth during the first two Five Year Plans. It led to economic growth and increase in industrial production. With new industrial cities coming into being
- (iii) Stalin introduced a collectivisation programme, under which the peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (Kolkhoz) and the government fixed the prices of grains sold to it.

12. State any three measures taken by the Provisional Government to suppress the Bolshevik influence.

Ans. As the Provisional Government realised that its power was reducing and Bolshevik influence growing, it decided to take the following measures

- (i) It resisted attempts by workers to run factories and began arresting leaders.
- (ii) Popular demonstrations staged by the Bolsheviks were strongly repressed. Many Bolshevik leaders had to go into hiding or flee.
- (iii) Military men loyal to the Provisional Government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers.

13. What were the differences between the Bolshevik and Menshevik groups? Competency Based

Ans. The differences between the Bolshevik and Menshevik groups were

Bolshevik Group

- The Bolsheviks were the majority group of workers of Russia.
- The Bolsheviks argued that the stages of history could be telescoped and that, as Russia had been imperialist, its capitalist stage could be shortened, allowing for the building of socialism
- The Bolsheviks wanted a direct exchange from Tsarism to communism

Menshevik Group

- The Mensheviks were the minority group

- Mensheviks argued that Russia was just beginning the capitalist stage of development, so the main task for them was. Alongside providing the workers with a Marxist framework, to help build the democratic, capitalist institutions of the state.
- Mensheviks, a socialist society should be preceded by a liberal capitalist system as the direct transition from Tsarism to communism is not possible.

14. Read the statements given below regarding the Russian Revolution.

Statement 1 (S1) In 1914, Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia and its empire.

Statement 2 (S2) About 85 per cent of the Russian empire's population earned their living from agriculture.

Explain what trend do these statements-S1 and S2- reflect in the Russian Revolution

Ans. Statements 1 and 2 highlight the stark contrast between Russia's leadership and its majority population. While Tsar Nicholas II lived in luxury, about 85% of the people worked in farming, likely living in poverty and facing tough conditions. These struggling farmers were open to new ideas for change.

Their problems-like poverty, no voice in government, and desire for change led to opposition against the Tsar's rule. This shows the big gap between the rich rulers and the poor farmers, which was a key reason for the revolution that ended the Tsar's rule.

15. What actions did workers in England and Germany take to improve their living and working conditions?

Build the answer around these points Formation of associations

- **Establishment of funds**
- **Demands for reduced working hours**

Ans. Workers in England and Germany took following actions to improve their living and working conditions

Formation of associations Workers formed associations and trade unions to collectively advocate for their rights and interests

Establishment of funds They set up funds within these associations to provide financial assistance to members during times of distress, such as unemployment or illness.

Demands for reduced working hours Workers demanded a reduction in the number of working hours to prevent overwork and exhaustion. Despite their efforts, socialists did not succeed in forming a government in Europe until 1914, but their actions shaped legislation and improved conditions for workers.

16. Read the statements given below regarding the changes that took place after the February Revolution in Petrograd.

Statement 1 (S1) The Worker's Movement spread throughout the summer.

Statement 2 (S2) intense conflicts grew between the Provisional Government and Bolsheviks.

Explain what trend these statements - S1 and S2 -reflect in the February Revolution.

Ans. Statements 1 and 2 show a worrying change in Petrograd after February: from unity to increasing disagreements and tensions.

Statement 1 shows growing worker dissatisfaction in industrial area, factory committees were formed which began questioning the way industrialists ran their factories.

Statement 2 highlights the growing gap between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks, Lenin feared that the provisional government would establish a dictatorship. This disagreement led to conflict and instability. So, these statements show a shift from hope to hostility.

17. Nobles got their power and position through their services to the Tsar, not through local popularity. This was unlike France where, during the French Revolution in Brittany, peasants respected nobles and fought for them. In Russia, peasants wanted the land of the nobles to be given to them. Frequently. They refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords'.

Analyse the contrasting relationship between peasants and nobles in Russia and Brittany (France) during their respective revolutions.

Ans. In Brittany, France, peasants and nobles had a shared history and pride. During the revolution, some peasants even saved nobles from angry mobs. This was because they had common cultural bonds, there was no serfdom (peasants weren't forced to stay on the land). And they were influenced by Enlightenment ideas like freedom and equality.

In Russia, the relationship between nobles and peasants was very bad. The peasants had been serfs for centuries, which meant they had to work hard on the nobles' land for very little in return. The revolution was a chance for them

to take land and get away from this unfair system. The violent killing of nobles showed how angry and desperate the peasants were for change.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain any five socio-economic conditions of Russia at the beginning of the 20th century?
Or What type of an economy existed in Russia before the revolution?

Ans. At the beginning of the 20th century, Russia was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II.

The socio-economic conditions of Russia at that time can be explained in the following ways

- 85 per cent of the Russian people were agriculturists. Cultivators produced for the market and for their own needs. Russia was a major exporter of grain.
- Industry was found in some specific areas. St Petersburg and Moscow were famous for industry. Large factories existed alongside craft workshops. In some areas, factory workers and craftsmen were almost equal in number.
- Workers were a divided social group. Some had strong links with the villages, while others had settled in cities permanently.
- Despite divisions, workers did unite to strike work when they disagreed with the employers.
- Peasants had no respect towards nobility. They pooled their land together periodically and their commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individual families.

2. What were the main causes of the civil war between the Bolsheviks and the Russian army, the non-Bolshevik socialist?

Ans. The main causes of the civil war between the Bolsheviks and the Russian army, the non-Bolshevik socialists were

- After the success of October Revolution, the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution to the peasants. The Russian army began to break up. Soldiers deserted the army and wanted to go home for the redistribution of land.
- Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising. All the leaders of these groups moved to South Russia and organised their army to fight against the Bolsheviks. During 1918 and 1919, the Greens (Socialist revolutionaries) and the Whites (Pro-Tsarists) controlled most of the Russian empire.
- The Greens and Whites were backed by French, American, British and Japanese Troops. All these forces were worried at the growth of socialism in Russia.
- In many areas, Bolshevik colonists brutally massacred local nationalists in the name of defending socialism. In this situation, many were confused about the standpoint of the Bolsheviks.

3. Explain how a socialist society was established in Russia.

Ans. The Bolsheviks took the following measures to establish a socialist society in Russia.

- The Bolsheviks nationalised industries and banks.
- Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
- Officials assessed how the economy could work and made Five Year Plans on its basis.
- Centralised planning led to economic growth. Industrial production increased and new factory cities established in Russia.
- An extended schooling system was developed. Arrangements were made for higher education for workers and peasants which helped them to enter universities.
- Cheap public healthcare was provided.
- Model living quarters were established for workers.
- Creches were established in factories for the children of women workers.

4. Explain the views of the socialists on private property with special emphasis on Karl Marx. Name the international body set up to spread and coordinate their efforts.

Ans. Socialists were against private property. They saw it as the root of all social evils.

Their views are stated below

- Socialists favoured ownership of property by society as a whole rather than single individually owned properties, thus attention would be paid to collective social interests.
- According to Marx in capitalism, factories were owned by the capitalists and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers. But the work profit of capitalism and the rule of private property
- Marx suggested that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, the workers had to construct a radically socialist society. In a socialist society, all property was socially controlled.
- Marx believed that workers would win in their conflict with capitalists and there should be 'dictatorship of the proletariat'. This communist society would be the natural society of the future.

To coordinate their efforts, socialists formed the international body, viz, the 'Second International.'

5. Explain the contribution of Lenin to the Russian Revolution.

Ans. Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik Party. He was prepared to take desperate measures to make the revolution successful. The following points state his contribution in Russian Revolution

- On his return from exile in April 1917, he organised his party to take over the reins of government, as the Mensheviks, running the provisional government, had lost popular support.
- In his 'April Theses', he put forward clear policies to end Russian participation in the war, transferring land to the tiller and nationalising banks
- He proclaimed the right to self-determination of all people in the Russian empire. On 7th November, 1917. the Provisional Government fell, making Lenin the head of the world's first communist country.
- He implemented his policies to make Russia a truly socialist society till his death in 1924.

6. Read the information given below regarding Industrial Society and Social Change and answer the question that follows.

It was a time of profound social and economic changes. It was a time when new cities came up and new industrialised regions developed, railways expanded and the Industrial Revolution occurred. Industrialisation brought men, women and children to factories. Work hours were often long and wages were poor. Unemployment was common, particularly during times of low demand for industrial goods. Housing and sanitation were problems since towns were growing rapidly. Liberals and radicals searched for solutions to these issues. Almost all industries were the property of individuals. Liberals and radicals themselves were often property owners and employers.

Analyse the passage in terms of its impact-negative and/or positive - on Industrial Society and Social Change.

Ans. Positive Impacts The passage suggests rapid industrialisation and the rise of new industries and regions. This would have led to economic growth, increased national wealth, and the creation of new jobs. The rise of railways and the Industrial Revolution represent innovations and technological advancements that would have improved transportation. Communication and production efficiency. The growth of new cities indicates increased opportunities for education, healthcare, and access to goods and services, potentially improving the quality of life for some.

Negative Impacts The passage highlights harsh working conditions for men, women, and children. Characterised by long hours, low wages, and unemployment. This likely led to exploitation, poverty, and health issues for labourers. Rapid urban growth often meant poor housing, sanitation, and overcrowding, leading to disease and social problems. The ownership of industries by individuals and the prominence of property owners among liberals and radicals suggest a widening gap between the wealthy and the working class, potentially resulting in social unrest and political tensions.

The passage presents a mixed picture of industrialisation, highlighting both the potential for economic growth and technological advancement alongside the concerns of worker exploitation, social inequality, and urban problems.

7. There were many key factors that led to the overthrow of the Tsar in the February Revolution of 1917.

Justify the statements with relevant points referring to the Russian Revolution.

Ans. Economic problems were a significant factor in the overthrow of the Tsar. Russia was experiencing widespread poverty, exacerbated by rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. The majority of the population, particularly peasants and industrial workers, faced dire living conditions and low wages. Meanwhile, the aristocracy and bourgeoisie enjoyed immense wealth and privilege, widening the gap between the rich and the poor. This economic disparity fueled discontent among the masses, leading to widespread dissatisfaction with the Tsarist regime. The growth of socialist ideas also played a crucial role in the February Revolution. These ideologies advocated for the redistribution of wealth, greater rights for workers and the overthrow of the capitalist system.

The event of Bloody Sunday, which occurred in 1905. had a lasting impact on Russian society and contributed to the downfall of the Tsar.

Bloody Sunday symbolised the autocracy's disregard for the welfare and rights of its citizens, fueling revolutionary fervour and strengthening opposition to Tsarist rule. The memory of this tragic event continued to fuel discontent and served as a rallying cry for revolutionary movements leading up to the February Revolution of 1917.

8. 'News of the revolutionary uprising of 25th October, 1917, reached the village the following day and was greeted with enthusiasm; to the peasants it meant free land and an end to the war.... The day the news arrived, the landowner's manor house was looted, his stock farms were 'goccupied' and his vast orchard was cut down and sold to the peasants for wood; all his far buildings were torn down and left in ruins while the land was distributed among the peasants who were prepared to live the new Soviet life'.

Source: Fedor Belov, The History of a Soviet Collective Farm

Analyse the October Revolution in terms of its impact - negative and/or positive. Competency Based

Ans. The October Revolution of 1917, a watershed moment in Russian history, carries a multifaceted legacy encompassing both positive and negative ramifications. Positively, the revolution signified the overthrow of the oppressive Tsarist regime, which had long suppressed dissent and perpetuated socioeconomic inequality. The establishment of a new government under the Bolsheviks indicates a revolutionary shift towards a society founded on principles of equality, worker empowerment, and social justice. Economically, the revolution brought about significant changes with the nationalisation of industries, banks and land redistribution. The seizure of private property and its redistribution among the peasantry promised to

Alleviate landlessness and empower rural communities. Negatively, the October Revolution also unleashed a wave of violence and instability. The subsequent Civil War, fought between the Bolshevik Red Army and various counter-revolutionary forces, resulted in widespread destruction, loss of life and societal upheaval. The brutality of the conflict inflicted immense suffering on civilians and exacerbated economic hardships, plunging the country into chaos and turmoil.