

Edexcel AS/A-level History

RUSSIA
1917–91
FROM LENIN
TO YELTSIN

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! Simple essay style

Below is a sample exam question. Use your own knowledge and the information on the opposite page to produce a plan for this question. Choose four general points, and provide three pieces of specific information to support each general point. Once you have planned your essay, write the introduction and conclusion for the essay. The introduction should list the points to be discussed in the essay. The conclusion should summarise the key points and justify which point was the most important.

To what extent was religion suppressed by Communist governments in the years 1918–85?

i Eliminate irrelevance

a

Below are a sample exam question and a paragraph written in answer to this question. Read the paragraph and identify parts of the paragraph that are not directly relevant to the question. Draw a line through the information that is irrelevant and justify your deletions in the margin.

How far was government control over the lives of the people maintained in the years 1918–53?

There was extensive government control over the religious aspects of people's lives in the years 1918–53. Lenin argued that religion was an enemy of freedom. He also believed that people who respected the teaching of the Church would never fully embrace Communist ideology. Government control over religion was extended through terror. From 1918–53 terror was used extensively against the Orthodox Church. For example, Orthodox Priests in Moscow were massacred in January 1918 following a Church decree excommunicating the Bolsheviks. Stalin introduced big changes in policy such as the Five-Year Plans. But he continued to attack religious groups. For example, during collectivisation many Church buildings were closed and turned into grain stores. What is more, he destroyed Islamic groups such as Sufi groups in Turkestan. Nonetheless, not all religious activity was tightly controlled. Lenin's government funded Islamic schools, and Muslims were encouraged to join the Party during the 1920s. Similarly, Stalin ended censorship of Church magazines, and allowed some churches to re-open. Therefore, religion was tightly controlled, but control of religion was not complete because of the compromises made by the regime.

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