Notes

**The Age of Social Change**

After the revolution, individual rights and social power began to be discussed in many parts of the world, including Europe and Asia. Colonial development reshaped ideas of societal change, but everyone was not in favour of the complete transformation of society. Through the revolution in Russia, socialism became one of the most significant and powerful ideas to shape society in the twentieth century.

* The French Revolution opened up the possibility of creating a dramatic change in the way in which society was structured.
* Not everyone in Europe, however, wanted a complete transformation.
* Some were ‘conservatives’, while others were ‘liberals’ or ‘radicals’.

**Who were Conservatives?**

* They resisted change.
* After the revolution, they started accepting change provided it was slow and had links and respected the past.

**Who were Liberals?**

* They wanted a nation which tolerated all religions.
* They argued for an elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials.
* They were not Democrats.

**Who were Radicals?**

* They wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of a country’s population.
* They disliked concentration of property in hands of a few, not the existence of private property.

**Industrial Society and Social Change**

Industrial Revolution led to changes in social and economic life, new cities came up, and new industrialised regions developed. Men, women and children came to factories in search of work. But, unfortunately, working hours were long, and wages were poor. There was unemployment during the time of low demand for industrial goods. Liberals and radicals made wealth through trade or industrial ventures. According to them, society can be developed if the freedom of individuals is ensured, if the poor can labour, and if those with capital can operate without restraint. In France, Italy, Germany and Russia, revolutionaries overthrow existing monarchs. Nationalists talked of revolutions to create ‘nations’ with equal rights.

* This was the time of economic and social change.
* Men, women and children were pushed into factories for low wages.
* Most of the factory owners were often liberals and radicals and they felt that workers’ efforts must be encouraged.

**The Coming of Socialism to Europe**

* Socialists were against private property.
* They had different visions of the future.
* Some believed in cooperatives.
* Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels added that industrial society was capitalist

**Support for Socialism**

By the 1870s, socialist ideas spread through Europe, and they formed an international body – namely, the Second International. Associations were formed by workers in Germany and England to fight for better living and working conditions. The Labour Party and Socialist Party were formed by socialists and trade unionists by 1905.

* By the 1870s, socialist ideas spread through Europe.
* Workers in England and Germany began forming associations to fight for better living and working conditions.

**The Russian Revolution**

* In 1914, Nicholas II ruled the Russian empire.
* The Russian Empire included territory around Moscow, current-day Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.

**The Russian Empire in 1914**

In 1914, Russia was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II and its empire. The Russian Empire included current-day Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus, stretching to the Pacific and comprised today’s Central Asian states, as well as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The majority of the population was Russian Orthodox Christianity.

**Economy and Society during Russian Empire**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Russian population was dominated by agriculturalists, who used to cultivate for the market as well as for their own needs. St Petersburg and Moscow were prominent industrial areas. Craftsmen undertook much of the production, but large factories existed alongside craft workshops. In the 1890s, more factories were set up, and foreign investment in industry increased. Large factories were supervised by the government to ensure minimum wages and limited hours of work. Workers were a divided social group. They were also divided by their skill. Despite divisions, workers united to stop work when they disagreed with employers about dismissals or work conditions.

Peasants cultivated most of the land, but the nobility, the crown and the Orthodox Church owned large properties. Nobles got power and position through their services to the Tsar. In Russia, peasants wanted the land of the nobles.

* About 85 percent of the Russian empire’s population earned their living from agriculture.
* The industry was limited in number.
* Workers were divided into groups but they did unite to strike work when they were dissatisfied.
* Peasants had no respect for nobility, very unlike the French peasant.
* Russian peasants were the only peasant community which pooled their land and their commune divided it.

**Socialism in Russia**

Political parties in Russia were legal before 1914. In 1898, socialists founded the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party, which respected Marx’s ideas. Some Russian socialists felt that the Russian peasant custom of dividing land periodically made them natural socialists. Throughout the nineteenth century, socialists were active in the countryside and formed the Socialist Revolutionary Party in 1900. The party struggled for peasants’ rights and demanded land belonging to nobles be transferred to peasants. The party was divided over the strategy of the organisation. According to Vladimir Lenin, in a repressive society like Tsarist Russia, the party should be disciplined and should control the number and quality of its members. Mensheviks thought that the party should be open to all.

* All political parties were illegal in Russia before 1914.
* In 1900, the Russian Socialist Democratic Labour Party was formed.
* It struggled to give peasants their rights over land that belonged to nobles.
* As land was divided among peasants periodically and it was felt that peasants and not workers would be the main source of the revolution.
* But Lenin did not agree with this as he felt that peasants were not one social group.
* The party was divided into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.
* Lenin led Bolshevik group.

**A Turbulent Time: The 1905 Revolution**

Russia was an autocracy, and even at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Tsar was not subject to Parliament. During the Revolution of 1905, Russia, along with the Social Democrats and Socialist Revolutionaries, worked with peasants and workers to demand a constitution. For Russian workers, bad times started from the year 1904 as prices of essential goods rose and their real wages declined by 20 per cent. Workers went on strike demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and an improvement in working conditions. The procession was attacked by the police and the Cossacks when it reached the Winter Palace. The incident, known as Bloody Sunday, started a series of events which resulted in the 1905 Revolution. During the 1905 Revolution, the Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative Parliament or Duma. After 1905, most committees and unions worked unofficially since they were declared illegal.

* Liberals wanted to end of the autocracy of the Tsar.
* They worked towards demanding a constitution during the Revolution of 1905.

**Bloody Sunday**

* In 1904, Prices of essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20 percent.
* When four members of the Putilov Iron Works were dismissed, there was a call for industrial action.
* Over 110,000 workers in St. Petersburg went on strike demanding a reduction in working hours and increase in wages.
* This procession was attacked by the police and Cossacks.
* Over 100 workers were killed.
* Strikes took place as a reaction.
* People demanded a constituent assembly.
* The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative Parliament or Duma.
* The Tsar dismissed the first Duma within 75 days and announced the election of a second Duma.
* Tsar constituted the third Duma with conservative politicians.

**The First World War and the Russian Empire**

In 1914, war broke out between two European alliances – Germany, Austria and Turkey (the Central powers) and France, Britain and Russia (later Italy and Romania). This was the First World War. The war became popular, and as it continued, the Tsar refused to consult the main parties in the Duma. Support wore thin. The First World War was different on the easter front and on the western front. Between 1914 and 1916 Russian army lost badly in Germany and Austria. Russian army destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemy from being able to live off the land. The country was cut off from other suppliers of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea. Railway lines began to break down by 1916. For the people in the cities, bread and flour became scarce. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.

* In Russia, the first world war was initially very popular but later the support grew thin.
* Anti-German sentiments ran high.
* Russian armies lost badly in Germany and Austria.
* The war also affected the industry.
* There was labour shortage.
* By 1916, railway lines began to break down.
* The small workshops were closed down.
* There was shortage of grain and hence of bread.

**The February Revolution in Petrograd**

**Events**

Petrograd City is divided among its people. On the right bank of the River Neva, workers’ quarters and factories were located and on the left bank located fashionable areas such as the Winter Palace and official buildings. Food shortages deeply affected the workers’ quarters. On the right bank, a factory was shut down on February 22. Women also led the way to strikes, and it is called International Women’s Day. The government imposed a curfew as the fashionable quarters and official buildings were surrounded by workers. Duma was suspended on 25th February. The streets thronged with demonstrators raising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy. The government called out the cavalry, but they refused to fire on the demonstrators. Soldiers and striking workers gathered to form a ‘soviet’ or ‘council’ in the same building where the Duma met, and it is termed the Petrograd Soviet. Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country. Russia’s future would be decided by a constituent assembly elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Petrograd led the February Revolution which brought down the monarchy in February 1917.

* In the winter of 1917, Petrograd was grim.
* There was a food shortage in the quarters of workers.
* On 22th February, a lockout took place at a factory.
* Workers of 50 other factories joined in sympathy.
* Women also led and participated in the strikes. This came to be called the International Women’s Day.
* The government imposed a curfew.
* On the 24th and 25th, the government called out the cavalry and police to keep an eye on them.
* On 25th February, the government suspended the Duma and politicians spoke against this measure.
* On 27th February, the police headquarters were ransacked.
* Cavalry was called out again.
* An officer was shot at the barracks of a regiment and other regiments mutinied, voting to join the striking workers gathered to form a Soviet or council. This was the Petrograd Soviet.
* A delegation went to meet the Tsar, military commanders advised him to abdicate.
* On 2nd March, the Tsar abdicated.
* Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country.

**Effects**

Under the Provisional Government, army officials, landowners and industrialists were influential. Liberals and socialists worked towards an elected government. Restrictions on public meetings and associations were removed. In April 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile. Lenin demanded three things termed as ‘April Theses’. He wanted war to end, land to be transferred to the peasants, and banks to be nationalised. He also emphasised renaming the Bolshevik Party to the Communist Party. Workers’ movement spread throughout the summer. Factory committees formed, and trade unions grew in numbers. When the Provisional Government saw its power reduced and Bolshevik influence grew, they decided to take stern measures against the spreading discontent. In the countryside, peasants and their Socialist Revolutionary leaders pressed for a redistribution of land. Encouraged by the Socialist Revolutionaries, peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

* Restrictions on public meetings and associations were removed.
* Soviets were set up everywhere.
* In individual areas, factory committees were formed which began questioning the way industrialists ran their factories.
* Soldiers' committees were formed in the army.
* The provisional government saw its power declining and Bolshevik influence grow.
* Therefore, it decided to take stern measures against the spreading discontent.
* It resisted attempts by workers to run factories and arrested leaders.
* Peasants and the socialist revolutionary leaders pressed for a redistribution of land.
* Land committees were formed and peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

**The Revolution of October 1917**

**Events**

The conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks grew. On 16 October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. To organise the seizure, a Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet under Leon Trotskii. The Military Revolutionary Committee ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers. By nightfall, the city was under the committee’s control and the ministers had surrendered. At a meeting of the All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd, the majority approved the Bolshevik action.

* On 16th October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power.
* A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet to organise seizure.
* Uprising began on 24th October.
* Prime Minister Kerenskii left the city to summon troops.
* Pro-government troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the Winter Palace.
* In response, Military Revolutionary Committee ordered to seize government offices and arrest the ministers.
* The 'Aurora' ship shelled the Winter Palace.
* Other ships took over strategic points.
* By night the city had been taken over and ministers had surrendered.
* All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd approved the Bolshevik action.
* By December, the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow - Petrograd area.

**Effects**

Industry and banks were nationalised in November 1917, which meant that the government took over ownership and management. Land was declared as social property, and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik). Elections were conducted in November 1917 to the Constituent Assembly, but they failed in the majority. In January 1918, the Assembly rejected Bolshevik measures and Lenin dismissed the Assembly. Despite opposition, in March 1918, the Bolsheviks made peace with Germany at Brest Litovsk. The Bolsheviks participated in the elections to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, which became the Parliament of the country. Russia became a one-party state. After October 1917, this led to experiments in the arts and architecture. But many became disillusioned because of the censorship the Party encouraged.

* Most industry and banks were nationalised in November 1917.
* The land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
* Use of old titles was banned.
* New uniforms were designed for the army and officials.
* Russia became a one-party state.
* Trade unions were kept under party control.

**The Civil War**

The Russian Army broke up and their leaders moved to south Russia and organised troops to fight the Bolsheviks (the ‘Reds’). During 1918 and 1919, the Russian Empire was controlled by the ‘Greens’ (Socialist Revolutionaries) and ‘Whites’ (pro-Tsarists), backed by French, American, British and Japanese troops. These troops and the Bolsheviks fought a civil war. By January 1920, the Bolsheviks controlled most of the former Russian empire. In the name of defending socialism, Bolshevik colonists brutally massacred local nationalists. Most non-Russian nationalities were given political autonomy in the Soviet Union (USSR) – the state the Bolsheviks created from the Russian empire in December 1922.

* When the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution, the Russian army began to break up.
* Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising. They were supported by French, American, British and Japanese troops.
* All these fought a war with the Bolsheviks.

**Making a Socialist Society**

During the civil war, industries and banks kept nationalised. Peasants were permitted to cultivate the land. A centralised planning process was introduced. Officials worked on how the economy will work and set targets for a five-year period. During the first two ‘Plans’, the government fixed all prices to promote industrial growth (1927-1932 and 1933-1938). Centralised planning led to economic growth. But, rapid construction led to poor working conditions. A schooling system was developed, and arrangements were made for factory workers and peasants to enter universities. For women workers, crèches were established in factories for the children. Cheap public health care was provided. Model living quarters were set up for workers.

* The Bolsheviks kept industries and banks nationalised during the civil war.
* Rapid construction and industrialisation started.
* An extended schooling system developed.
* Stalin and Collective Farming
* Stalin believed that rich peasants and traders stocked supplies to create shortage of grains. Hence, collectivisation was the need of the hour.
* Those farmers who resisted collectivisation were punished, deported or exiled.

**Global Influence**

* In many countries, communist parties were formed.
* By the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, the USSR had given socialism a global face and world stature.
* By the end of the twentieth century, the international reputation of the USSR as a socialist country had declined.

**Stalinism and Collectivisation**

The period of the early Planned Economy led to the disaster of the collectivisation of agriculture.

By 1927- 1928, the towns in Soviet Russia faced an acute problem of grain supplies. Stalin introduced firm emergency measures. In 1928, party members toured the grain-producing areas, supervising enforced grain collections and raiding ‘kulaks’ – the name for well-to-do peasants. After 1917, the land was given over to peasants. From 1929, the Party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (kolkhoz). Peasants worked on the land, and the kolkhoz profit was shared. Between 1929 and 1931, the number of cattle fell by one-third. The government of Stalin allowed some independent cultivation but treated such cultivators unsympathetically. In spite of collectivisation, production did not increase immediately and due to bad harvests of 1930-1933, over 4 million people died. Throughout the country, accusations were made, and by 1939, over 2 million were in prisons or labour camps.

**The Global Influence of the Russian Revolution and the USSR**

In many countries, communist parties were formed, like the Communist Party of Great Britain. Non-Russians from outside the USSR participated in the Conference of the Peoples of the East (1920). The Bolshevik-founded Comintern (an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties). Before the outbreak of the Second World War, the USSR had given socialism a global face and world stature. The USSR became a great power, and its industries and agriculture developed, and the poor were being fed. By the end of the twentieth century, the international reputation of the USSR as a socialist country had declined.

**NCERT Question**

**Questions 1**: What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905?

**Answer**

The Social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905 was backward:

**Social Conditions**: 85% of Russia's population was agriculturist. The industry was existent, but rarely in which most of was privately owned. Workers were divided on the basis of their occupation. They mainly migrated to cities for employment in factories. The peasant community was deeply religious but did not care much about the nobility. They believed that land must be divided amongst themselves

**Economic Condition**: Russia was going through bad period economically. Prices of essential good rises while real wages decreased by 20% leading to the famous St.Petersburg strike. This strike started a series of events that are together known as the 1905 Revolution. During this revolution, there were strikes all over the country, universities closed down, and various professionals and workers established the Union of Unions, demanding the establishment of a constituent assembly.<br>

**Political Condition**: Political parties were illegal before 1914.&nbsp;The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in 1898 by socialists who respected Marx’s ideas. In 1903, this party was divided into two groups - Mensheviks and Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks, who were in majority, were led by Lenin who is regarded as the greatest thinker on socialism after Marx.

**Questions 2**: In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?

**Answer**

The working population in Russia was different from other countries in Europe before 1917 because not all Russian workers migrated from the villages to work in the industrial sector. Some of them continued to live in villages and went to work daily, to the towns. They were a divided group, socially and professionally, and this showed in their dress and manners too. Metal workers were the "aristocrats" of the working class because their occupation demanded more training and skill. Nevertheless, the working population was united on one front - strikes against work conditions and employer tyranny.

**Questions 3**: Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?

**Answer**

The Tsar first dismissed the initial two Dumas and then packed the parliament with the conservatives. During the First World War, the Tsar took decisions without consulting the Duma. Large scale casualties of Russian soldiers in the war further alienated the people from the Tsar. Burning of crops and buildings by the retreating Russian armies created a huge shortage of food in Russia. All of these led to the collapse of the Tsarist autocracy in 1917.

**Questions 4:** Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.

**Answer**

**February Revolution**:

* 22nd February: Factory lockout on the right bank took place,
* 25th February: Duma was dissolved.
* 27th February: Police Headquarters ransacked. Regiments support the workers. Formation of Soviet.
* 2nd March: The Tsar abdicated his power. The Soviet and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government for Russia.

The February Revolution had no political party at its forefront. It was led by the people themselves. Petrograd had brought down the monarchy, and thus, gained a significant place in Soviet history. Trade Unions grew in number.

**October Revolution**:

* **16th October:** A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by Soviet.
* **24th October**: The uprising against provisional government begins. Military Revolutionary Committee controls the city by night and ministers surrender. The Bolshevik gained power.

The October Revolution was primarily led by Lenin and his subordinate, Trotskii and involved the masses who supported these leaders. It marked the beginning of Lenin's rule over the Soviet, with the Bolsheviks under his guidance.

**Questions 5**.What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?

**Answer**

The main changes which were brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution:

* Banks and Industries were nationalised.
* Land was declared social property, thereby allowing peasants to seize it from the nobility.
* In urban areas, houses were partitioned according to family requirements
* Old aristocratic titles were banned, and new uniforms were designed for the army and the officials.
* New uniforms were introduced for the army and the officials.

**Questions 6**.Write a few lines to show what you know about:

1. Kulaks
2. The Duma
3. Women workers between 1900 and 1930.
4. The Liberals
5. Stalin’s collectivization programme.

**Answers**

1. It is the Russian term for wealthy peasants who Stalin believed were hoarding grains to gain more profit.By 1927-28 the towns of Soviet Russia were facing an acute problem of grain supplies. Kulaks were thought to be partly responsible for this. Also to develop modern farms and run them along industrial lines the Party under the leadership of Stalin thought it was necessary to eliminate Kulaks.
2. During 1905 Revolution, the Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative parliament in Russia. This elected consultative parliament in Russia was called Duma.
3. They made up 31% of the factory labour force by 1914but were paid almost half and three-quarters of the wages given to men. However, interestingly, it was the women workers who led the way to strikes during the February Revolution.
4. They espoused a nation that was tolerant towards all religions; one that would protect individual rights against the government. Although the liberals wanted an elected parliamentary form of governance, they believed that the right to vote must only belong to men, and that too the ones who were property holders.
5. Stalin believed that collectivization of agriculture would help in improving grains supplies in Russia. He began collectivization in 1929. All peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (kolhoz). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of the collective farm. Many peasants protested such attempts and destroyed livestock to show their anger. Collectivization did not bring the desired results in the food supply situation turned even worse in subsequent years.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

**Question 1** One of the groups which liked to change the society, was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Liberals

**Question 2** Industrialisation brought men, women and children to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Factories

**Question 3** Who was Giuseppe Mazzini

**Answer**: He was an Italian nationalist.

**Question 4** Marx argued that industrial society was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Capitalist

**Question 5** Workers in England and Germany began to form associations to fight for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Better living and working conditions

**Question 6** Socialists took over the government in Russia through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: October Revolution of 1917

**Question 7** Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia and its empire in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: 1914

**Question 8** Government supervised large factories to ensure the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Minimum wages and limited hours of work

**Question 9** All political parties were illegal in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Russia before 1914

**Question 10** What was the new name given to the Bolshevik Party ?

**Answer**: Russian Communist Party

**Question 11** The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: 1898 by Socialists.

**Question 12** In Russia, the war was initially popular and people rallied around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: Tsar Nicholas II.

**Question 13** The government tried to control the demonstrators and called out the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: Cavalry.

**Question 14** Petrograd had led the February Revolution that brought down the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Monarchy in February 1917.

**Question 15** On 2nd March, Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Provincial Government to run the country.

**Question 16** What type of a nation did liberals want ?

**Answer**: Liberals wanted a nation which tolerated all religions.

**Question 17** The political party formed in mid-1920 in India, by the inspiration of Russian Revolution was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: Communist Party.

**Question 18** The government suspended the Duma on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**: 25 February.

**Question 19** Mention the most significant result of the February Revolution **Answer**: The abdication of Tsar Nicholas-II.

**Question 20** Explain the significance of the Russian revolution Answer: The major significance of the Russian revolution was the establishment of a socialist state.

**Question 21** What does the term ‘conservative’ mean ?

**Answer**: The conservatives believed in respect for the past and change through a gradual process.

**Question 22** List the names of two workers associations

**Answer**: (a) Labour Party in Britain

(b) Socialist Party in France.

**Question 23** Name the international body formed to coordinate socialist efforts

**Answer**: The Second International body was formed in 1870, to coordinate socialist efforts throughout Europe.

**Question 24** Who were socialists ?

**Answer**: Socialists were those people who were against private property and saw it as the root of all social ills of the time.

**Question 25** Who was the ruler of Russia during the October Revolution **Answer**: Kerenskii was the ruler of Russia during the October Revolution.

Short Answer Type Questions

**Question 1** Why did Kerenskii’s Government become unpopular in Russia ?

**Answer**: The Kerenskii’s government become unpopular in Russia because :

* His failure to feel the pulse of the nation. He tried to suppress the workers movement and the Balshevik influence.
* People wanted peace, but he tried to continue the war.
* The non-Russian nationals failed to get an equal status under his government.

**Question 2** Which event in Russian history is known as Bloody Sunday ?

**Answer**:

* On 9th January, 1905 a mass of peaceful workers with their wives and children was fired at St. Petersburg while on its way to the Winter Palace to present a petition to the Tsar.
* More than a hundred workers were killed and about 300 were wounded.
* The incident known as Bloody Sunday in history of Russia as the massacre had taken place on Sunday.

**Question 3** What were the immediate consequences of the Russian Revolution?

**Answer**: The immediate consequences of the Russian Revolution were :

(a) Most industries and banks were nationalized in November 1917. This meant the government took over the ownership and management. Land was declared social property

(b) In cities, Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements

(c) They banned the use of old title of aristocracy.

**Question 4** What was the basic principle of the Marxist theory ?

**Answer**: The basic principle of the Marxist theory were :

(a) Marx believed that the conditions of workers could not improve if profit was accumulated by private capitalists

(b) Workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property

(c) Workers must construct a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society and a Communist Party was the natural society of the future.

**Question 5** How did the Bolshevik Party contribute to the Russian Revolution of October 1917?

**Answer**:

* The Bolshevik Party put forward clear policies to end the war, transferred the land to the peasants and advanced the slogan, “All power to the Soviets”. On the question of non-Russian nationalities, Bolsheviks were the only party with a clear policy.
* Lenin had proclaimed the right of all people to self-determination, including those under the Russian Empire.

**Question 6** Describe reforms introduced by the Russian Tsar Nicholas II after the Revolution

**Answer**:

* After 1905, most committees and unions worked unofficially. Since they were declared illegal. Severe restrictions were placed on Kerenskii political activity.
* Power to make laws was conferred upon on elected body called the Duma.
* He changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians. Liberals and revolutionaries were kept out.

**Question 7** State any three events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the revolution of 1905 in Russia

**Answer**: Three events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the revolution of 1905 in Russia were :

* The news provoked unprecedented disturbances throughout Russia. Strike took place all over the country.
* The universities of Russia were closed when student bodies staged walkouts, complaining about the lack of civil liberties.
* Lawyers, doctors, engineers, middle class workers established Union of Unions and demanded a constituent assembly.

**Question 8** Explain the main demands of “April Theses”

**Answer**: In April 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile. He and the Bolsheviks had opposed the war since 1914. Now he felt it was time for soviets to take over power. He put three demands which were known as Lenin’s April Theses The three demands were :

(a) He declared that the war to be ended

(b) Land to be transferred to the peasants

(c) The banks to be nationalized.

**Question 9** Discuss the positive aspects of the Bolshevik government on Soviet Union and its people

**Answer**: The positive aspects of the Bolshevik government on Soviet Union and its people were :

* Immediately after coming to power, Lenin announced his decision to with draw from the First World War.
* Private property in the means of production was abolished. Economic exploitation by capitalists and landlords came to an end.
* The control of industries was given to workers. All the banks, industries and mines . water transport and railways were nationalized.

**Question 10** How did the 1905 Revolution in Russia prove to be a dress rehearsal of October 1917 Revolution? Explain

**Answer**:

* In 1904—05, there was war between Russia and Japan. In this war, Russia was defeated by Japan. The Russian people began to oppose the Tsar. They believed that the only cause of this defeat was the government of Tsar which had failed to carry out war properly.
* A procession of thousands of peaceful workers along with their wives and children went to the palace of Tsar to show their anger and present a petition on Sunday, 9 January, 1905. While the workers were on the way to the Winter Palace of Tsar, they were fired at by the army of the Tsar.
* More than one hundred people were killed and about three hundred were wounded.

**Question 11** What were the significant changes in the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin?

**Answer**: In 1925, Stalin became General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union after the death of Lenin The following were the significant changes in the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin.

* The economic and military power of the Soviet Union was enhanced rapidly.
* The unemployment and economic backwardness was controlled to some extent.
* The international position of the Soviet Union became much better than the previous time and it became one of the super powers of the world.

**Question 12** How was the bad condition of women responsible for Russian Revolution?

**Answer**: The bad condition of women responsible for Russian Revolution because :

* Most of the women were working in small factories.
* Women made up about 31% of the factory labour force by 1914.
* They were paid less wages and were forced to work for long hours.
* When they launched an agitation, they were fired by the police.

**Question 13** Why were socialists against private property and saw it as the root of all social ills ?

**Answer**: The people who propagated socialism said that individuals, who owned property, did provide employment to many people but they were concerned with personal gains only. They did not bother about the welfare of the people. They felt that if society- controlled property, more attention would be paid to collective social interests socialists wanted this change and campaigned for it.

**Question 14** Differentiate between the ideas of the liberals and radicals in Europe

**Answer**:

(a) The liberals did not believe in universal franchise. In contrast, radicals wanted a nation in which government was based on most of a country’s population

(b) Liberals felt men of prosperity mainly should have the vote. They did not want the vote for women. On the other hand, the radicals supported women’s suffragette movements and opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners

(c) Radicals were not against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

**Question 15** Which basic principles, ideas and values had the Russian Revolution for rest of the world ?

**Answer**: The basic principles, ideas and values had the Russian Revolution for rest of the world :

(a) Economic equality

(b) Social Equality

(c) Socialism

(d) Anti-capitalism

(e) International fraternity of all the peasants, craftsmen and workers.

Questions Long Answer Type Questions

**Question 1** Describe the circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution

**Answer**: The circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution as given below :

* The Russian peasantry was in a miserable condition. The farmers could not get even two square meals a day. Their land holdings were very small and they had to pay heavy taxes.
* The Russian as well as the foreign capitalist industrialists exploited the workers by taking 12-14 hours of work and paying very low wages to them. The workers had no right to form trade unions or seek reforms. They led a miserable life.
* The Tsar Nicholas II was a despotic and autocratic ruler. He enjoyed unlimited powers and rights. The people of the higher strata enjoyed great privileges. The bureaucracy was corrupt and inefficient. The common people who suffered most, were fed up with the absolute rule of the Tsar and wanted to get rid of him.
* Karl Marx propagated ‘Scientific Socialism’. He strongly opposed capitalism which meant untold exploitation of the common men.

**Question 2** Explain in brief Lenin’s contribution to the Russian Revolution of 1917

**Answer**:

* Lenin had played an important part in the Russian Revolution of 1917. It is true that after the fall of Tsar, Lenin led the revolutionaries. Really, it was the beginning of the revolution.
* The Provisional Government, under the leadership of Kerenskii, could not implement the demand of the people and failed.
* Under Lenin’s leadership, the Bolshevik Party put forward clear policies to end the war, transfer the land to the peasants and advance the slogan ‘All power to the Soviets’.
* He had described the Russian empire as a Prison of Nations and had declared that . no genuine democracy could be established unless all the non-Russian people were given equal rights.

**Question 3** What were the main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries ?

**Answer**: The main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries were :

* The Tsar had thrown Russia into the First World War to fulfil his imperialistic desires. It was the demand of the revolutionaries that Russia should withdraw from the war. So, it withdrew from the First World War in 1917 after the Revolution.
* After the Revolution, the land was given to the tillers. The landlords had to give the land to the government. Kolkhoz and Sovkhoj farms were established. In Kolkhoz farms, the peasants worked collectively.
* The revolutionaries had demanded an improvement in the conditions of the industrial workers. They demanded better wages, good working conditions and removal of exploitation. After 1917, the industries were nationalised and the dream of workers was fulfilled.
* The next aim of the revolutionaries was that the non-Russians should be given equal status. Lenin believed that without this status these people could never become real Russians.

**Question 4** How Lenin’s name became inseparable from the Russian Revolution ?

**Answer**: Lenin’s name became inseparable from the Russian Revolution :

* After completing his education, he joined the Communist Revolutionary Party and started spreading revolutionary ideas among the workers. He favoured the workers. He also favoured the setting up of the new society based on the principles of socialism of Karl Marx.
* He set up a Communist Government in place of the despotic rule in Russia. Therefore, Lenin’s name became inseparable from the Russian Revolution.
* Lenin united the peasants and workers under the Bolshevik Party and directed the revolution against the Provisional Government.
* Efforts were made to set up a Socialist Government on the basis of principles of Karl Marx. The private property was confiscated. Lenin took the land from the landlords and distributed it among the peasants. The Government nationalised all the factories and handed over their management to the workers. All debts were remitted. The property of the Church was also confiscated.

**Question 5** What was the impact of the Russian Revolution on Russia ?

**Answer**: The impact of the Russian Revolution on Russia were :

* The Revolution put an end to autocratic monarchy in Russia. The Tsarist empire was transformed into a new state known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or the Soviet Union.
* The most important result of the Bolshevik Revolution was the establishment of a Socialist Government in Russia. All the means of production were brought under state control. Banks, mines, factories, railways, telephones, etc. all were declared as government property and the property of the Church was nationalised. Work became an essential requirement for every person. The non-working person was not entitled to vote.
* The condition of the Russian mass had become miserable due to the First World War. The prime need of the Russian mass was food, not expansion.
* As a result of the Bolshevik Revolution, the government took all the means of production under its control and nationalised all small and big industries. Hence, within a few years Russia emerged as a powerful industrial state. With the growth of industrial and agricultural production, poverty started disappearing and the country moved on to the path of prosperity.

**Question 6** What was the global impact of the Russian Revolution ?

**Answer**: The global impact of the Russian Revolution were :

* The Bolshevik Revolution helped in the spread of Socialist and Communist ideas all over the world. Communist Governments were established in many European countries.
* Most of the Bolshevik leaders believed that a series of revolutions will sweep other countries of the world along with revolution in Russia. Many non-Russians from outside the USSR participated in the conference of the people of the east and the Bolshevik-founded Comintern, an international union of Pro-Bolshevik socialist parties.
* The Bolshevik government ‘granted freedom to all its colonies immediately after coming to power. Thus, the new Soviet State came forward as a friend of the subjugated people and proved to be a source of great inspiration to the freedom movements of various Asian and African countries.
* By the end of the 20th century, the international reputation of the USSR as a socialist country had declined through it was recognised that socialist ideals still enjoyed respect among its people.

**Question 7** How did Russia’s participation in the World War cause the fall of the Tsar ?

**Answer**:

(a) The war was initially popular, and people rallied around Tsar Nicholas II

(b) As the war continued, support became thin and Tsar’s popularity declined. Anti-German sentiments became high

(c) The Tsarina Alexandra’s German origins and poor advisers, especially a monk called Rasputin, made the autocracy unpopular

(d) Defeats were shocking and demoralising. Russia’s armies lost badly in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916. There were over 7 million casualties by 1917

(e) The destruction of crops and buildings led to over 3 million refugees in Russia. The situation discredited the government and the Tsar. Soldiers did not wish to fight such a war.

**Question 8** Explain the main effects of the First World War on the industries in Russia

**Answer**: Effects of the First World War on the industries in Russia were :

* Russian industries were very few and the country was cut off from other suppliers of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea.
* Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than elsewhere in Europe.
* By 1916 railway lines began to break down. Able bodied men were called up to the war.
* As a result, there were labour shortages and small workshops producing essential commodities were shut down.
* Large supplies of grain were sent to feed the army. For the people in the cities, bread and flour became scarce. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.