

Russian History at WyHigh Academy



Russians living under Russian rule in 1855?

We hope that the depth of the Russian History course we offer will help bring the history of this fascinating country to life for you.

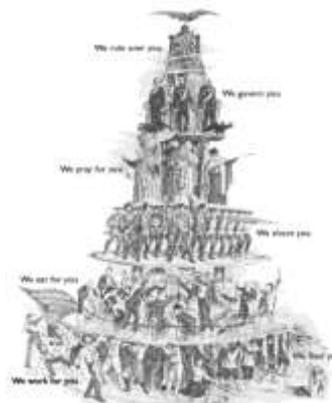
Over the summer you should start exploring 19th century Russia yourselves. Start finding out and contemplating the smells, tastes, colours and sounds of Russia in the mid-1800s. Find out about the people, its geography, and its ruling system. What was life like for Russians and non-

Preparation for Year 12:

Task:

During the first week of the Autumn term you are going to be expected to issue a report and offer advice at a meeting of Tsarist Ministers in St Petersburg. It is 1855 and Tsar Alexander II has just ascended the Russian throne. He will be looking to you for advice; you must be prepared with the findings of your report on the state of Russia in 1855. Your report should include details on the following:

- The state of **social** conditions across the Russian Empire.
- An understanding of the **political** situation in Russia (you must understand what it means to be an autocratic monarch)
- The state of the **economy** in Russia.
- The role of the **church** in Russia.
- **Resistance** or **opposition** to the Tsar (was anything threatening his power?)
- The **military** situation in 1855. Consider the strengths and the weaknesses.



To help you prepare this report the following resources may help:

- Russia- Land of the Tsars (on youtube)
- <http://spartacus-educational.com/RussiaIssues.htm>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17840446>
- Any of the suggested books below or have a hunt in your local library

Other resources/ideas:

Historical fiction, contemporary literature & film:

- Anna Karenina (film or novel by Leo Tolstoy)
- Dr Zhivago (film or novel)
- Sashenka (novel by Simon Montefiore)

Aiming higher/fancy a challenge?

- Orlando Figes: A People's Tragedy or Natasha's Dance (A cultural history of Russia)
- Animal Farm or 1984 by George Orwell (more relevant to Year 13 study)

Frequently Asked Questions about the course

Which exam board do we use? AQA

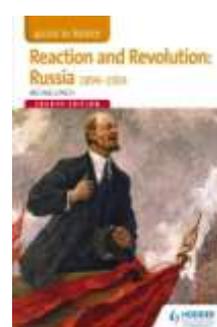
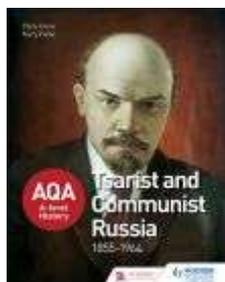
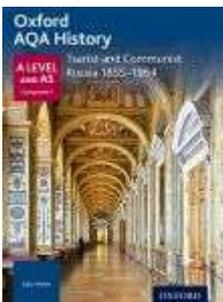
What is the code and name of the course taught? Breadth study, 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1984

When will I be examined? You will all take an AS exam at the end of Year 12. For those of you who want to carry on and complete the full A Level, your AS result will not count towards your final grade. The AS exam will cover the period 1855-1917. The full A Level exam will cover the whole period 1855-1964 and will be taken at the end of Year 13.

How is the course broken up across Year 12 and Year 13? In year 12 you will study Tsarist Russia and the fall of Tsar Nicholas II in 1917. In year 13 you will study Communist Russia from 1917 to 1964.

What sort of questions will I be expected to answer in the exams? You will have to write essays and analyse the validity of historian's views.

Are there any books you would recommend for the course? The main textbook for the course is by Sally Waller and published by the Oxford University Press ISBN: 978-0-19-835467-3. Also see the recommendations below. (By no means is there the expectation for you to come with all/any of these books in September.)



The Syllabus

1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions: • How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop? • Why did opposition develop and how effective was it? • How and with what results did the economy develop and change? • What was the extent of social and cultural change? • How important were ideas and ideology? • How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894 • Political authority and the state of Russia: autocracy; the political, social and economic condition of Russia in 1855 and the impact of the Crimean War • Political authority and attempts at reform: Alexander II; emancipation of the serfs and attempts at domestic and military reform • Government and Tsars: Alexander II and Alexander III as rulers; attitudes to and imposition of autocracy; key developments • Political authority in action: Russification; treatment of ethnic minorities and Jews • Opposition: ideas and ideologies; individuals; liberals and radical groups and the Tsarist reaction • Economic and social developments: industrial developments and the land issue; social divisions; nobles, landowners and position of the peasantry; the cultural influence of the Church

The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917

Political authority, government and Tsar; Nicholas II as ruler: political developments to 1914; 1905 Revolution; Duma government • Economic developments to 1914: industrial and agricultural growth and change • Social developments to 1914: change and conditions of working and living in towns and countryside; social divisions; cultural changes • Opposition: ideas and ideologies, liberalism, socialism; Marxism; individuals and radical groups • Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social problems of wartime; opposition and the collapse of autocracy; the political developments of 1917 • Political authority, opposition and government: the Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of Bolshevik government by December 1917; opposition

Part two: the Soviet Union, 1917–1964 (A-level only)

The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941 (A-level only) • Political authority and government: new leaders and ideologies; Lenin's Russia, ideology and change; Stalin's rise, ideology and change • Political authority and government: the consolidation of Bolshevik authority and development of the Stalinist dictatorship • Economic developments: Lenin's decrees; the Stalinist economy; collectivisation and the Five Year Plans • Social developments: effect of Leninist/Stalinist rule on class, women, young people, religion and national minorities; propaganda and cultural change • Opposition: faction; the Red Terror and the purges • The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1941

The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964 (A-level only)

Political authority, opposition and the state of the Soviet Union in wartime: the political, economic and social impact of war; effect on Stalin, government and 'the people' • Political authority and government to 1953: High Stalinism; the revival of terror; destruction of 'supposed' opposition and cult of personality; the power vacuum on Stalin's death • Political authority and government: Khrushchev's rise to power; policies and ideology; deStalinisation; political and party changes Economic and social developments: changes in industrial organisation from Stalin to Khrushchev; agriculture and the Virgin Lands scheme; social and cultural change from Stalin to Khrushchev • Opposition: cultural dissidents; communist divisions; hardliners and reformers;

opponents of Khrushchev and his fall from power • The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1964

Wars of the Roses History at WyHigh Academy

'The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there'.



The Wars of the Roses takes place in Britain but not a Britain that you're familiar with.

The best preparation for understanding the course is to try and familiar yourself with anything medieval and specifically C15th England.

Below are some ideas as to how you might give yourself a head start for September.

Visit a castle/museum

If you're on holiday somewhere in the U.K. make a point of visiting a castle – there are hundreds to choose from but I would strongly recommend the Tower of London, Warwick Castle (Midlands), Corfe Castle (Dorset), Ludlow (Welsh borders), Cockermouth (Northumbria) and/or Middleham (in Yorkshire) but closer to home Baconsthorpe, Framlingham and Castle Rising are all worth a visit.

Visit a battlefield

There are displays and visitor centres at a number of battlefield sites – Bosworth in Leicestershire is excellent but you could also visit Towton, St. Albans, Barnet and Tewkesbury

Attend a re-enactment

There are an increasing number of these and they're an excellent way of accessing medieval history. If you're feeling really brave join in. There is a wars of the roses federation on facebook who are worth following.

Learn some heraldry

Much of the colour of the medieval past is associated with coats of arms. See if you can learn some of the heraldry of the period.



Play a strategy board/computer game

An excellent way of learning some history is to play a well-researched game. I would recommend Kingmaker the board game (also a computer version) and Medieval Total War for the computer. – Kingmaker, Lancaster v York, Game of Thrones

Watch some films, TV and plays

Anything Medieval will probably help but be wary of terrible historical inaccuracies. One of the best things to watch and/or read is Game of Thrones. Of course it is not real history but the whole thing was based on the Wars of the Roses and it will help you understand how factions and family feuds and rivalries can affect a whole country. The recent BBC dramatization of the White Queen is worth a look but be warned it is grossly inaccurate and opinionated in places. Shakespeare wrote a number of plays set before and during in the Wars of the Roses, notably two of his finest, Richard III and Henry V. I would recommend watching either of these but again be aware of the gross inaccuracies. A BBC dramatisation of some of these plays starring Benedict Cumberbatch is due soon.

Read a novel

There are hundreds of novels set in the Wars of the Roses and a well-researched one can be an excellent way of familiarising yourself with the history. I would recommend the 'Sunne in Splendour' by Sharon Penman, the 'Stormbird' trilogy by Conn Iggulden, the 'Winter Pilgrims' trilogy by Toby Clements and 'A Daughter of Time' by Josephine Tey

Read a textbook – some of those recommended by the exam board

Paul Murray Kendall – 'Warwick the Kingmaker'

D Cook, Lancastrians and Yorkists: The Wars of the Roses, Longman, 1984

C Ross, The Wars of the Roses, Thames and Hudson, 1986

C Allmand, The Hundred Years War: England and France at War c.1300-c.1450, Cambridge University Press, 1988

C Carpenter, The Wars of the Roses, Politics and the Constitution of England, Cambridge University Press, 1997

J Gillingham, The Wars of the Roses, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2001

S Gristwood, Blood Sisters: The Women Behind the Wars of the Roses, Harper Press, 2013

M Hicks, The Wars of the Roses, Yale University Press, 2012

M Hicks, Who's Who in Late Mediaeval England, 1272-1485:

J R Lander, Government and Community: England 1450-1509, Harvard University Press, 1988

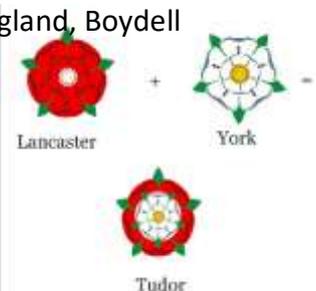
J R Lander, The Wars of the Roses, The History Press, 2007

D Baldwin, Elizabeth Woodville: Mother of the Princes in the Tower, The History Press, 2010

R A Griffiths, The Reign of Henry VI, The History Press, 2004

M Hicks, Warwick the Kingmaker, Wiley-Blackwell, 2002

H Maurer, Margaret of Anjou: Queenship and Power in Late Medieval England, Boydell Press, 2005 •



The Syllabus

2B the Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499

This option provides for the study in depth of a period in which the English monarchy suffered instability and the country was subjected to a range of political, economic and social pressures. It develops concepts such as authority, hierarchy, faction and legitimacy. It also encourages students to reflect on the sources of power within a state, causes of political breakdown and the impact of dynastic instability on the 'common people'.

Part one: the fall of the House of Lancaster, 1450–1471

The origins of conflict, 1450–1459 • English society and politics in 1450: the weakness of Henry VI's rule; baronial factions; Cade's rebellion; the loss of Normandy • The impact on English politics of the emerging power and influence of Richard of York • The outbreak of war: the first Battle of St Albans and the balance of military power in 1455 • The uneasy peace: the influence of Margaret of Anjou; factional rivalries and their impact on English society

The War of the Barons, 1459–1461

The renewal of war: York's flight into exile; the emergence of Warwick 'the Kingmaker'; the capture of Henry VI at Northampton • Filling the political vacuum: the rule of Richard of York as Protector of England • Shifting loyalties and the Lancastrian revival: Wakefield; the second Battle of St Albans; the death of York and the restoration of Henry VI • Proclamation of Edward IV as King; Yorkist victory at Towton; the strengths and weaknesses of the Yorkists by 1461

The triumph of the Yorkists, 1461–1471

The personal rule of Edward IV and the political impact of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville • Factional rivalries: Warwick 'the Kingmaker'; attempts to restore Henry VI; Margaret of Anjou; Edward, Prince of Wales • The crushing of the Lancastrian cause: Barnet and Tewkesbury; the destruction of the Lancastrian nobility • The impact of the baronial wars on English society by 1471: the weakening of the aristocracy; the impact on trade and the economy

Part two: the fall of the House of York, 1471–1499 (A-level only)

'The Sun in Splendour': the reign of Edward IV, 1471–1483 (A-level only) • The consolidation of royal authority under Edward IV and the development of new methods of government • Factional rivalries and court politics: hostile reactions against the influence of the Woodvilles • Change and continuity in English society during a decade of peace: trade and the economy, social mobility, the regions • The premature death of Edward IV and the crisis of the Yorkist succession

The downfall of the Yorkist Monarchy, 1483–1486 (A-level only)

The coup d'état by Richard of Gloucester: the issue of the Princes in the Tower and Richard III's position as a usurper • Factional rivalries; the emergence of Henry Tudor, dissensions among the Yorkist nobility, Buckingham's rebellion • The strengths and weaknesses of Richard III's position in 1484: the death of his wife and heir; the problem of the succession • The downfall of Richard III: Bosworth, the proclamation of a new Tudor dynasty under Henry VII and his marriage to Elizabeth of York

The end of the Yorkist Dynasty, 1486–1499 (A-level only)

Yorkist opposition to Henry VII: the Lovell revolt; defeat of the Pretender Lambert Simnel at Stoke; the Yorkshire Uprising • Attempts to maintain the Yorkist cause: Margaret of Burgundy, the Earl of Warwick and the Pretender Perkin Warbeck • The end of the Yorkist challenge: defeat of Warbeck and his Scottish and Cornish allies; the execution of Warbeck and Warwick • The impact of the Wars of the Roses on English society by 1499: trade and the economy; central authority and the regions