Russian revolution activity.

Study Sources A, B, C and D in order to answer the following questions.

1.1 Refer to Source A.

1.1.1 What, according to the source, were the aims of the Assembly of the Russian Workingmen? (2 x 1) (2)

1.1.2 Using the source and your own knowledge, explain the association Father Gapon had with the family of the Tsar. (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.3 With reference to the source and your own knowledge mention the name of the Tsar of Russia during this time. (1 x 1) (1)

1.1.4 Why, according to the source, did Gapon stop being a police agent? (2 x 2) (4)

1.1.5 In the context of the source explain what is meant by “despotic and irresponsible government.” (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.6 Using the source, mention FOUR demands that were contained in the people’s petition to the Tsar. (4 x 1) (4)

1.2 Study Source B.

1.2.1 Quote a line from the source that tells us that the ordinary people of Russia had no channel to voice their suffering. (1 x 2) (2)

1.2.2 Why, in your own opinion, is the language of the petition very polite and considerate towards the Tsar? (1 x 2) (2)

1.2.3 How does Source B support Source A with regard to the violation of human rights by the ruling class in Russia? (2 x 2) (4)

1.3 Read Source C.

1.3.1 Use the source and your own knowledge to explain the meaning of the concept “aristocracy” fully. (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.2 Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why there was a strike by the workers in March 1917. (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.3 Why is the March revolution also known as the February Revolution? (2 x 2) (4)

1.4 Consider Source D.

1.4.1 Using the source and your own knowledge define the concept, war communism. (1 x 2) (2)

1.4.2 Using the source and your own knowledge explain why it had been necessary for the success of the Bolshevik Revolution that capitalist governments should be overthrown throughout Europe. (2 x 2) (4)

1.4.3 How devastating were the results of the civil war for Russia? (2 x 2) (4)

1.4.4 The last sentence in Source D refers to a new policy for Russia under conditions of peace. Name this policy. (1 x 1) (1)

1.5 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) in which you explain the reasons why Lenin introduced the policy of War Communism. (8)

 [50]

SOURCE 1A

This source deals with the transformation of the influential Father Gapon from a police agent to the leader of the people demanding drastic reforms from the Tsar.

Father George Gapon led a movement secretly created and guided by the police. The Assembly of Russian Workingmen aimed to immunise the workers against the plague of socialism and strengthened their attachment to the Orthodoxy and the Tsar. Sincere in his beliefs and carried away by the extravagance of his own speeches and fervour of his eager audiences, Gapon abandoned his role as police agent for that of popular leader and started a mass movement to petition the Tsar for reform. Denouncing ‘despotic and irresponsible government’ the petition attacked the ‘capitalistic exploiters, crooks and robbers of the Russian people’ and appealed to the Tsar to grant his people a parliament, the vote, universal education, a minimum wage, an eight-hour working day, an income tax system, separation of church and state, and amnesty (general pardon or forgiveness) for all political prisoners.

[Source: Tames, R. – Last of the Tsars, London: Pan Macmillan]

SOURCE 1B

An extract from the petition that Father Gapon hoped to present to the Tsar on 22 January, 1905, the Bloody Sunday.

“We, the workers, our children, our wives and our old, helpless parents have come, Lord, to seek truth and protection from you. We are impoverished and oppressed, unbearable work is imposed on us, we are despised and not recognised as human beings. We are treated as slaves, who must bear their fate and be silent. We have suffered terrible things, but we are pressed deeper into poverty, ignorance and lack of rights.”

[Adapted from: [www.spartacushistory.com](http://www.spartacushistory.com)]

SOURCE 1C

This source deals with the March 1917 Revolution, also referred to as the February Revolution.

The insurrection began almost unnoticed. Early in March 1917, a strike of workers of Petrograd’s great Pulitov Engineering Works turned thousands of men onto the streets, to demonstrate against the government and to appeal to the workers of other plants. March 8, International Women’s Day, regularly celebrated by the workers, brought thousands of women from the queues for bread to swell (drastically increase the size of) the crowds. Red flags and banners with the slogan “Down with the Aristocracy!” made their appearance. The police, however, had no great trouble in dispersing the crowds, and the unrest seemed no greater than on previous occasions.

[Adapted from: Curtiss, JS, The Russian Revolutions of 1917. Princeton; Anvil Von Nostrand]

SOURCE 1D

This source deals with some of the challenges that were facing the Bolsheviks when they came to power in Russia.

At the time of the October Revolution in Russia, Lenin and others had hoped that workers throughout Europe would overthrow capitalist governments and achieve socialist revolutions. But when that did not take place, the Soviet Union found itself economically isolated and attacked on all sides by the invading armies of imperialism. While the Soviet Union fought back and defeated the invading armies by the end of 1920, the damage was done. Industry and machinery, already largely destroyed by the capitalists who fled during the revolution, were in shambles, many of the best workers had been killed or maimed at the front; agriculture, already hurt by war and demoralisation of the farmers was further damaged by crop failures. The people in the cities were starving. To feed people in the cities, the Soviet government confiscated grain. As Lenin explained in his pamphlet, ‘The Tax in Kind’, “It was the war and the ruin that forced us into War Communism failure in 1920”.

At the Tenth Congress of the Russian Communist Party in March 1921, Lenin called for a new policy: “Up to now we have been adapting ourselves to the tasks of war; we must now adapt ourselves to the conditions of peace.”

[Adapted from http://sfr-21.org/war-communism.html]