

answer key for russian revolution dbq

Answer Key for Russian Revolution DBQ

The Russian Revolution of 1917 is a pivotal moment in world history, marking the end of centuries of imperial rule and laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Soviet Union. The Document-Based Question (DBQ) format challenges students to analyze primary and secondary sources to construct a coherent argument regarding historical events. This article serves as a comprehensive answer key for a Russian Revolution DBQ, offering insights into key themes, important documents, and potential responses.

Understanding the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution can be divided into two main events: the February Revolution and the October Revolution. Each of these revolutions had distinct causes, key players, and outcomes.

February Revolution

- Causes: The February Revolution was primarily driven by widespread discontent with the Tsarist regime. Key factors included:

1. Economic hardship and food shortages exacerbated by World War I.
2. Military failures and high casualties in the war.
3. Growing revolutionary sentiments among workers and peasants.

- Outcomes: The February Revolution resulted in:

1. The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II.
2. The establishment of a Provisional Government.
3. The formation of the Petrograd Soviet, a council representing workers and soldiers.

October Revolution

- Causes: The October Revolution saw the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, capitalize on the failures of the Provisional Government.

1. Continued economic distress and social unrest.
2. The failure of the Provisional Government to withdraw from WWI.
3. The Bolsheviks' promises of "peace, land, and bread."

- Outcomes: The October Revolution resulted in:

1. The overthrow of the Provisional Government.
2. The establishment of a communist government under the Bolsheviks.
3. The initiation of a civil war between the Red Army (Bolsheviks) and the White Army (anti-Bolsheviks).

Key Themes in the DBQ

When preparing to respond to a DBQ regarding the Russian Revolution, it's essential to identify and analyze several key themes that are often highlighted in the documents provided:

Social Inequality

- The stark contrast between the wealthy elite and the impoverished working class is a recurring theme. Documents may include:
- Excerpts from the writings of revolutionary leaders like Lenin and Trotsky.
- Testimonies from workers and peasants describing their struggles.

Political Change and Ideology

- The shift from autocratic rule to a communist government illustrates a significant political transformation. Key points include:
- The ideological foundations laid out by Marxism.
- The role of the Bolshevik Party in mobilizing support for revolution.

The Role of War

- World War I acted as a catalyst for the revolutions. Important aspects to consider:
- The economic strain caused by the war.
- The impact of military defeats on public opinion regarding the Tsarist regime.

Document Analysis Tips

Analyzing documents effectively is crucial for a successful DBQ response. Here are some tips:

Contextualization

- Place each document within the broader historical context. Consider:
- The socio-economic conditions of Russia before the revolution.
- The impact of World War I on Russian society and politics.

Source Reliability

- Assess the reliability and perspective of each document:
- Who created the document? What were their motivations?
- Is the source biased, and if so, how does that affect its credibility?

Argument Development

- Use the documents to support a clear thesis statement. Structure your argument logically:
 1. Introduce your thesis in the introduction.
 2. Use specific documents as evidence for each point in the body paragraphs.
 3. Conclude by summarizing how the evidence supports your thesis.

Sample Responses to Common DBQ Prompts

Below are examples of potential responses to common DBQ prompts related to the Russian Revolution. Each response integrates analysis of specific documents and ties back to the overarching themes.

Prompt 1: Analyze the factors that led to the Russian Revolution.

In response to this prompt, students should discuss various causes of the revolution, supported by documents. A potential thesis could be: "The Russian Revolution was the result of a combination of social inequality, political discontent, and the disastrous effects of World War I."

- Document A: A letter from a factory worker describing poor working conditions can illustrate social inequality.
- Document B: A speech by Lenin calling for an end to the war highlights political discontent.
- Document C: Statistics showing food shortages and inflation can provide evidence of economic distress.

By linking these documents to the thesis, students can effectively argue that multiple factors contributed to the revolutionary climate in Russia.

Prompt 2: Evaluate the impact of World War I on the Russian Revolution.

For this prompt, a strong thesis might state: "World War I significantly exacerbated existing tensions in Russian society, ultimately catalyzing the revolutions of 1917."

- Document D: A military report detailing troop losses can demonstrate the war's toll on morale.
- Document E: Testimonies from soldiers' families about food shortages illustrate the war's impact on civilian life.
- Document F: A political cartoon from the time depicting the Tsar's incompetence in the face of war can emphasize public discontent.

These documents can be woven together to argue that the war intensified the social and political crises that led to revolution.

Conclusion

The Russian Revolution remains one of the most significant events of the 20th century, reshaping the political landscape of not only Russia but the entire world. Understanding the factors that led to this momentous change, as well as the key themes and documents associated with it, is essential for anyone studying this period. By effectively analyzing primary sources and constructing well-supported arguments, students can gain a deeper appreciation of the complexity of the Russian Revolution and its enduring impact on global history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a DBQ in the context of the Russian Revolution?

A DBQ, or Document-Based Question, is an essay prompt that requires students to analyze and interpret primary source documents related to the Russian Revolution, drawing conclusions based on evidence from those documents.

What are some key themes to consider when creating an answer key for a Russian Revolution DBQ?

Key themes include the causes of the revolution, the role of key figures like Lenin and Trotsky, the impact of World War I, social and economic conditions in Russia, and the outcomes of the revolution.

How can primary sources be effectively used in a DBQ about the Russian Revolution?

Primary sources such as speeches, letters, government documents, and contemporary newspaper articles can provide firsthand accounts and insights that help students support their arguments and understand the historical context.

What types of documents are commonly included in a Russian Revolution DBQ?

Common documents include the October Manifesto, writings by Lenin, propaganda posters, accounts from soldiers and peasants, and international perspectives on the revolution.

What skills are assessed in a DBQ response about the Russian Revolution?

DBQ responses assess skills such as critical thinking, historical analysis, document interpretation, argumentative writing, and the ability to synthesize information from various sources.

Why is it important to understand the context of the Russian Revolution when answering a DBQ?

Understanding the context allows students to better analyze the motivations behind actions taken by revolutionary leaders and groups, as well as the societal conditions that led to the revolution.

How should students structure their responses to a Russian Revolution DBQ?

Students should structure their responses with a clear thesis statement, supportive evidence from the documents, historical context, and a conclusion that summarizes their main points and insights.

What common mistakes should students avoid when answering a DBQ about the Russian Revolution?

Common mistakes include failing to directly answer the prompt, overlooking key documents, providing unsupported claims, and neglecting to include historical context or analysis.

How can teachers create an effective answer key for a Russian Revolution DBQ?

Teachers can create an effective answer key by outlining expected responses, highlighting key documents to reference, identifying common themes, and providing scoring guidelines for evaluating student essays.

What are some effective study strategies for preparing for a DBQ on the Russian Revolution?

Effective study strategies include reviewing primary sources, practicing essay writing with

past DBQs, discussing key themes and figures, and collaborating with peers for diverse perspectives.

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