At the beginning of the twentieth century the Russian empire was on the verge of momentous political and social change. Despite the pressures exerted by the war, famine and industrialisation, increased contact with the West, the failure of agricultural reform and the growing political demands of revolutionary groups, Nicholas II, Tsar of Russia, managed to hold onto his supreme power.

Read *Russia Soviet Union 1917-1945: From Tsar to Stalin*, p.1-9 and take notes on the following subheadings:

**Tsar Nicholas II**
- Family man
- Autocrat out of touch with people

**The Tsarist state, c.1900**
- Inequalities in society
- Agricultural problems
- Industrialisation > growth of urban centres
- The privileged elite

**Emergence of discontent**
- No compromise by establishment: calls for reform met with extreme reaction
- Economic hardships for workers
- Strikes, violence and assassinations
Russian Revolution: Pre-Conditions

**War with Japan, 1905**

- Father Georgi Gapon
- Peaceful petition
- Nicholas' response
- Public reaction
- Establishment and influence of Soviet councils
- Breakdown of law and order in countryside

**Bloody Sunday’, 1905**

- Count Sergei Witte
- Pavel Miliukov and Union of Unions
- October Manifesto > some concessions / reform
- October Manifesto > limitations

**October Manifesto, 1905**

- Tsar’s supremacy / power of veto
- Limited franchise for Duma
- Reflection on Tsar

**The Fundamental Laws, 1906**

- New political parties established
- Exiled parties re-emerged
- Ineffectiveness of Duma
- Limited influence of revolutionary parties until 1914
- Real winners of established Dumas
- Few formal political changes 1905-1914

**The Politics of the Dumas**

- Attempts to gain support from peasants
- Agricultural reforms, 1906
- Limitations of reforms
- Stolypin’s ruthless repression of political dissidents

**Reforms of Pyotr Stolypin**
**Russian Revolution: Pre-Conditions**

**Re-emergence of discontent**
- State of industry pre-World War I
- Precarious balance of political system
- Growth of collective mentality among working class

**Key Personalities, groups, terms**
- Nicholas II
- Count Sergei Witte
- Pyotr Stolypin
- Socialist Revolutionaries
- Social Democratic Worker’s Party
- Duma
- Kadets
- Octobrists

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**Political Opposition to the Tsar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Democrats</td>
<td>- Formed 1898</td>
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<td>- Split into factions at 1903 Conference:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>i. Mensheviks - moderate, revisionist, secure reforms with support and mobilisation of masses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii. Bolsheviks - sought radical change, organised by tightly disciplined group of revolutionaries (Lenin &amp; Trotsky)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Based on Lenin’s interpretation of Marxism, sought total revolution by proletariat (workers) and not peasants</td>
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<td>- Use of propaganda</td>
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<td>- Believed gradual change no use &gt; need to seize power as catalyst for capitalist revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Revolutionaries</td>
<td>- Based ideas on populism: the communal ideas of peasantry</td>
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<td>- Used terrorist methods and violence</td>
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<td>- Most noticeable and dangerous to the state</td>
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<td>- Moderate and conservative groups</td>
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<td>- Many made up Zemstvos organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitutional Democrats (Kadets)</td>
<td>- Wanted a Western style parliamentary system (constitutional monarchy)</td>
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<td>Monarchists</td>
<td>- Wanted to retain the Tsar, but with a more modernised system of Tsarism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservatives and Reactionaries</td>
<td>- Not seeking any radical change but reform within institutions</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Pre-Conditions: Document Study

Source 1
British cartoon from the satiric magazine, *Punch*, 1905

1. Explain the historical context of Source 1 and Source 2 - that is, the relevant events, people and ideas depicted or represented in the sources.
2. Compare and contrast the messages conveyed by Source 1 and Source 2.
3. Examine the issues involved in interpreting the historical evidence of Source 1 and Source 2. Your answer may include discussion of purpose, motive, place and time.
4. Using your knowledge of the whole period of study, evaluate the importance of ideas, and/or events represented in the two sources.
Pre-Conditions: Document Study

Source 2
The social structure of Imperial Russia, anti-government cartoon.

We are the Tsars over you

We are ruling you

We are praying for you

We are defending you

We are shooting at you

We are feeding you

We are working for you

Imperial Russia’s social structure depicted in an anonymous cartoon of 1900 issued by the Union of Russian Socialists.