

# Russian Revolution Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. The Bolsheviks were led by which figure?**
  - A. Lenin**
  - B. Rasputin**
  - C. Trotsky**
  - D. Stalin**
  
- 2. What was the outcome described for Stalin's first five-year plan between 1928 and 1939?**
  - A. Privatization of major industries.**
  - B. Immediate collapse of industrial production.**
  - C. Isolation of the Soviet Union from industrialization.**
  - D. Large factories, hydroelectric power stations, industrial complexes; growth in oil, coal, steel; new railroads.**
  
- 3. Which figure, trusted by the Tsar's wife, was assassinated in 1916?**
  - A. Lenin**
  - B. Trotsky**
  - C. Stalin**
  - D. Rasputin**
  
- 4. Under the NEP, peasants could do what with their land and crops?**
  - A. Be required to join cooperatives**
  - B. Be taxed heavily and lose private land**
  - C. Hold onto small plots of land and freely sell their surplus crops**
  - D. Be forced to give all crops to the state**
  
- 5. Which of the following best describes a central feature of the Soviet command economy?**
  - A. The market determines most prices and allocation**
  - B. Consumers control production priorities**
  - C. A group of planners makes all economic decisions and allocates resources**
  - D. Decentralized decision-making by private owners**

- 6. Bolshevik refers to which group?**
- A. A reformist socialist party**
  - B. A monarchist faction**
  - C. A communist political party led by Vladimir Lenin in 1917 (Russia)**
  - D. A liberal party**
- 7. What was the Great Purge?**
- A. A cultural festival.**
  - B. An international alliance with Western powers.**
  - C. A reform program to liberalize the economy.**
  - D. A campaign that killed four million people in the Soviet Union.**
- 8. Who is the second tsar named in the listed sequence?**
- A. Alexander I**
  - B. Nicholas I**
  - C. Alexander II**
  - D. Nicholas II**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT listed among the groups opposing the tsars?**
- A. philosophers**
  - B. liberals**
  - C. workers**
  - D. nationalists**
- 10. Rasputin is best described as which of the following?**
- A. A noble adviser**
  - B. A military commander**
  - C. A foreign spy**
  - D. An illiterate peasant/monk and self-proclaimed 'holy man'**

## Answers

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1. A
2. D
3. D
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. D

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. The Bolsheviks were led by which figure?

- A. Lenin**
- B. Rasputin**
- C. Trotsky**
- D. Stalin**

This question tests who provided the central leadership of the Bolshevik faction during the crucial events of 1917. Vladimir Lenin was the figure at the top of the Bolshevik movement, guiding its strategy, ideology, and actions. He organized the party's resourceful push for power, argued for a disciplined, vanguard party, and issued plans that mobilized supporters around the goal of overthrowing the Provisional Government. Under his leadership, the Bolsheviks seized power in the October Revolution and established the new Soviet government, with Lenin as the leading political figure and head of the government. Rasputin had no role in leading the Bolsheviks; he was a mystic adviser to the Tsarist regime and opposed by the Bolsheviks. Trotsky was a pivotal Bolshevik leader and a driving organizer and commander, but he did not head the party in the same way Lenin did. Stalin rose to power later, after Lenin's death, and was not the leader during the 1917 revolution. Lenin's position as the central leader of the Bolsheviks during this period is why he's identified as the one who led them.

## 2. What was the outcome described for Stalin's first five-year plan between 1928 and 1939?

- A. Privatization of major industries.**
- B. Immediate collapse of industrial production.**
- C. Isolation of the Soviet Union from industrialization.**
- D. Large factories, hydroelectric power stations, industrial complexes; growth in oil, coal, steel; new railroads.**

The main idea here is the rapid push to build industrial capacity under centralized planning. The first five-year plan aimed to transform the Soviet economy by prioritizing heavy industry and massive infrastructure, not by private enterprise or market signals. The option that describes large factories, hydroelectric power stations, industrial complexes, along with growth in oil, coal, and steel and the development of new railroads, best fits what the plan achieved. It captures the scale and focus: creating monumental industrial sites, expanding power generation, boosting key resource sectors, and connecting the economy with a broad rail network. These elements epitomize the plan's goal of fast, state-directed industrialization and modernization. Privatization would run counter to the plan's collectivized, state-controlled approach. An immediate collapse of production didn't occur; the aim was not isolation from industrial progress but accelerating it. So the detailed description in the option reflects the actual outcomes more accurately.

**3. Which figure, trusted by the Tsar's wife, was assassinated in 1916?**

- A. Lenin**
- B. Trotsky**
- C. Stalin**
- D. Rasputin**

Rasputin's influence at the Romanov court came from his sway with Tsarina Alexandra. She trusted him deeply, believing he could help their ailing son and, by extension, the country during wartime. That personal trust translated into real political influence at the center of the monarchy, which made many nobles nervous and resentful. They feared his power over the Tsar's wife was effectively steering policy and court life, not just private advise. In 1916 a group of conspirators assassinated Rasputin, hoping to curb that influence and restore a sense of stability to the regime. The other figures—leaders of the Bolshevik movement—were not part of the imperial circle and were not killed in 1916.

**4. Under the NEP, peasants could do what with their land and crops?**

- A. Be required to join cooperatives**
- B. Be taxed heavily and lose private land**
- C. Hold onto small plots of land and freely sell their surplus crops**
- D. Be forced to give all crops to the state**

The main idea is that the NEP allowed peasants to keep private land and participate in market-style farming. Under this policy, peasants could hold onto small plots of land and freely sell their surplus crops after paying a tax to the state. This combination—private ownership of small plots, the freedom to trade surplus, and a tax in kind rather than full confiscation—was a deliberate move away from the harsh requisition and nationalization of the previous period. It meant peasants had an incentive to produce more, since they could keep what remained after paying the state. The other options don't fit because the NEP did not require peasants to join cooperatives, did not tax them to the point of losing private land, and did not force them to hand over all crops to the state.

5. Which of the following best describes a central feature of the Soviet command economy?

A. The market determines most prices and allocation

B. Consumers control production priorities

**C. A group of planners makes all economic decisions and allocates resources**

D. Decentralized decision-making by private owners

Central planning by state-appointed planners is the defining feature of the Soviet command economy. In this system, a centralized planning body decides what will be produced, in what quantities, and how resources—labor, capital, and raw materials—will be allocated across sectors. The state owns the means of production and sets production targets through plans, rather than letting markets determine prices and outputs. Consumers have little influence over what gets produced, because decisions are driven by planned goals rather than by consumer demand. The other options describe market-driven dynamics, consumer sovereignty, or private ownership with decentralized control, which do not characterize how the Soviet economy operated.

6. Bolshevik refers to which group?

A. A reformist socialist party

B. A monarchist faction

**C. A communist political party led by Vladimir Lenin in 1917 (Russia)**

D. A liberal party

Bolshevik refers to a political group in Russia during the Revolution era—the faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party that, under Lenin, advocated for a tightly organized vanguard party to lead a socialist revolution. They believed in overthrowing the tsarist regime rather than pursuing gradual reforms, and they ultimately established the Soviet government after the October Revolution in 1917. The name stuck to this group, which became the Communist Party in the years that followed. This is why the best answer identifies them as a communist political party led by Vladimir Lenin in 1917 Russia. They aren't reformist socialists, monarchists, or liberals, which is why those options don't fit.

## 7. What was the Great Purge?

- A. A cultural festival.
- B. An international alliance with Western powers.
- C. A reform program to liberalize the economy.
- D. A campaign that killed four million people in the Soviet Union.**

The Great Purge was a state-led campaign of political repression under Stalin in the Soviet Union during the late 1930s. Its aim was to eliminate real and imagined enemies and to consolidate Stalin's grip on power by removing rivals within the Communist Party, the military, and broader society. Repression came through mass arrests by the secret police, forced confessions, show trials, executions, and widespread imprisonment in the Gulag system. The result was a climate of fear and the removal of a large portion of the political and military leadership, along with countless others deemed threats or undesirable. Because of the scale and brutality—executions, deportations, and long imprisonments—the toll is counted in the millions, with figures often cited around four million. This is what makes it distinct from other events like a festival, a diplomatic alliance, or a reform program, none of which describe the internal terror and massive human cost of the purge.

## 8. Who is the second tsar named in the listed sequence?

- A. Alexander I
- B. Nicholas I**
- C. Alexander II
- D. Nicholas II

The sequence shows four rulers in order: Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II, Nicholas II. Reading by position, the second ruler in this list is the one named Nicholas I. In this lineup, Nicholas I is the first tsar named Nicholas, with Nicholas II appearing later. So the second tsar shown in the sequence is Nicholas I, who reigned from 1825 to 1855.

## 9. Which of the following is NOT listed among the groups opposing the tsars?

- A. philosophers**
- B. liberals
- C. workers
- D. nationalists

This item is testing which social or political groups actively opposed the tsarist regime. Liberals, workers, and nationalists all represent organized or widespread movements with concrete goals aimed at limiting or overthrowing autocratic rule: liberals pushed for constitutional reforms and civil liberties, workers organized strikes and socialist or labor movements, and nationalists sought autonomy or self-government for their peoples. Philosophers, while they certainly criticized autocracy through writings and ideas, did not form a single, organized opposition group in the same way. They influenced thought and debate, but they aren't a distinct political movement like the other three, which is why they're the ones not listed as opposing the tsars in this context.

**10. Rasputin is best described as which of the following?**

- A. A noble adviser**
- B. A military commander**
- C. A foreign spy**
- D. An illiterate peasant/monk and self-proclaimed 'holy man'**

Rasputin shows how a charismatic, self-styled holy man from a peasant background can gain extraordinary influence at a royal court. Born a peasant, he traveled as a wandering healer and mystic rather than as a noble or an official cleric. He had little formal schooling, and while he presented himself in monk-like terms, he was not an ordained monk in the traditional sense. His perceived healing powers and spiritual authority won the trust of Tsarina Alexandra, especially to help their son Alexis, who suffered from hemophilia. That personal access and influence over the royal family made him a lightning rod for controversy among the aristocracy and politicians, fueling resentment toward what they saw as illegitimate meddling in state affairs. His dramatic rise and controversial role culminated in his assassination by nobles who feared his sway. So describing him as an illiterate peasant/monk and self-proclaimed 'holy man' fits best, as he was not a noble adviser, a military commander, or a foreign spy.

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## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://russianrevolution.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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