

AQA A Level History: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855 – 1964



War and Peace Viewing Worksheets (Episodes 1–3)

For this task, you will need to access War and Peace on BBC I player. Either, print a version of this file off or make notes based on the questions listed below. You need to watch episodes 1 – 3 but it would be nice if you watched all 6.

Episode 1

1. **The Russian Aristocracy**

What impressions does the opening episode give of the Russian nobility?

2. **Power and Loyalty**

Why was loyalty to the Tsar so important?

3. **Pierre Bezukhov**

What does his inheritance reveal about privilege?

4. **Women and Marriage**

How much control do women have over their futures?

5. **Prince Andrei**

Why is he dissatisfied with aristocratic life?

6. **The Military**

Why do noblemen choose military service?

7. **Family Influence**

Compare the Rostov, Bolkonsky and Kuragin families.

8. **Historical Thinking**

Which features of society seem most likely to lead to future change?

Episode 2

9. **Leadership**

Compare Tsar Alexander with the military commanders.

10. **Reality of War**

How does the episode challenge romantic ideas of war?

11. **Social Class**

How are officers and ordinary soldiers portrayed differently?

12. **Prince Andrei**

How do his experiences change him?

13. Russia and Europe

What does the episode suggest about Russia's place in Europe?

14. Historical Thinking

What weaknesses become visible during wartime?

Episode 3

15. Wealth

Does wealth guarantee happiness or influence?

16. Authority

Compare Prince Bolkonsky's authority with that of the Tsar.

17. Marriage

How are marriages used to increase status?

18. Individual vs Society

Who challenges social expectations?

19. Religion

How is religion presented?

Finally, What closing thoughts do you have about Russian society in the 1800s?

How does it compare to Britain and some of the changes that are taking place there?

