

Political spectrum (noun)	a straight line where we place different political ideas relating to how a country should be run.
ideology (noun)	a set of ideas relating to how a country should be run and what society should look like

1.1 What is the political spectrum?

On the news you will often hear the terms ‘left wing’ and ‘right wing’. What do these terms mean and where do they come from?

First, these terms are on opposite sides of what we call, the ‘political spectrum’ – a straight line where we place different political ideas relating to how a country should be run.

The terms Left and Right were first used during and after French Revolution of 1789. If you wanted change in society and wanted to remove the king, you stood on the left in the French parliament. If you wanted to society to stay the same and supported the king, you stood on the right.

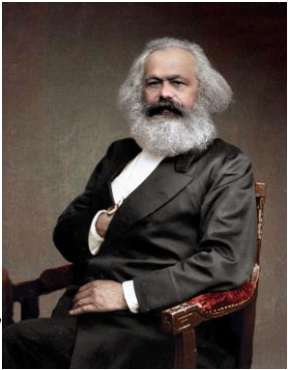
This led to the first main idea: people on the Left of the political spectrum want change. Those on the Right want things to stay the same.

Marxism

- Marxism is a political ideology which comes from the writings of the German thinker and philosopher, Karl Marx.
- Marx was convinced that he had solved the riddles of man’s existence.
- Every historical event and every historical change was caused by one thing only: the constant struggle between the rich and the poor.
- In 1848 Marx and his friend, Friedrich Engels, wrote a pamphlet called *The Communist Manifesto*. The first line famously reads:

‘The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.’

Karl Marx



- This pamphlet is probably one of the most significant and influential works ever created in the history of humanity, in the same league as the Bible, the Koran or Charles Darwin’s, *On the Origin of Species*.
- Marx predicted that the working classes would rise up and remove the upper classes from a position of power.
- Everything in society, such as a factory, would be owned by the community as a whole.
- In this system, **private property does not exist**.
- Each individual contributes according to their ability and receives according to their needs.
- Every country would become communist – a classless, completely equal society with no difference between rich and poor.

The main ideas of communism are ...

Socialism

- Socialists believe that society should become more equal but that full equality is not realistic. There should be a small divide between rich and poor.
- They believe that the government (the state) should help make this happen.
- For example, the Left argue for **higher taxes** on the rich so that the government can spend this on supporting the poorest in our society.
- This is known as the **redistribution of wealth**. The more you earn, the more tax you pay. Socialists support **trade unions** - organisations for workers.
- An example of this in practice is known as the **welfare state**. We all pay taxes to fund: the National Health Service (NHS), the benefits system (unemployment benefit, child benefit, disability benefit and pensions – for when we retire) and public services, like education and the police.

Clement Attlee
Labour Party
Prime Minister

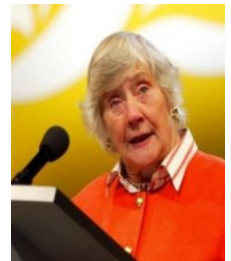


The main ideas of socialism are ...

Liberalism

- This is the belief that people should have their **freedoms** protected by the government.
- These ideas are part of democracy.
- For example, individuals have **freedom of speech**, freedom of the press and freedom of religion.
- Liberals believe that the government should not interfere in their lives.
- For example, people should be allowed to keep **private property** and keep most of their money – they should not have to pay high taxes.

Shirley Williams
Co-founder of the Liberal Democrats



The main ideas of liberalism are ...

Capitalism

- This is the belief that people should have equality of **opportunity**
- This means that an unequal society is **inevitable** as some people will inevitably achieve more than others.
- Capitalists believe that this is a good thing since the desire to make profits helps a business to be successful. Businesses are run by individuals.
- Capitalists think that individuals should look after themselves and not rely on others for support.
- They believe in **low taxes** as the desire for profit helps to develop innovation and new ideas whereas higher taxes would discourage people from working hard.

Margaret Thatcher
Conservative Party Prime Minister



The main ideas of capitalism are ...

Conservatism

- Conservatives, like the name suggests, want to conserve things and keep them as they are. Generally, **they do not like change**.
- This means that they support the existing institutions like the Houses of Parliament, the armed forces and the monarchy.
- Conservatives are often **patriotic** and think that an individual's needs are not as important as that of the country.
- As President John F. Kennedy said in his inauguration speech:

John F. Kennedy
President of the United States



'Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country'.

The main ideas of conservatism are ...

Far Right – Nazism and Fascism

- Those on the far Right of the political spectrum believe that some people **should not have equal rights** or protections because some are 'superior' (better) than others.
- For example, some thinkers in the 19th century thought that the history of society was not to do with class struggle but instead a struggle between people belonging to different races.
- This led to the idea that there was a **hierarchy of races** – some were 'biologically' better – fitter and more intelligent – than others.
- Those on the far Right, like those on the far Left, do not believe in democracy.

Adolf Hitler
Leader of the Nazi Party



The main ideas of the Far Right are ...

Add each political ideology to the political spectrum below.

Left

Centre

Right



2. Communist Russia: What were the ideals and reality of Communist Russia?

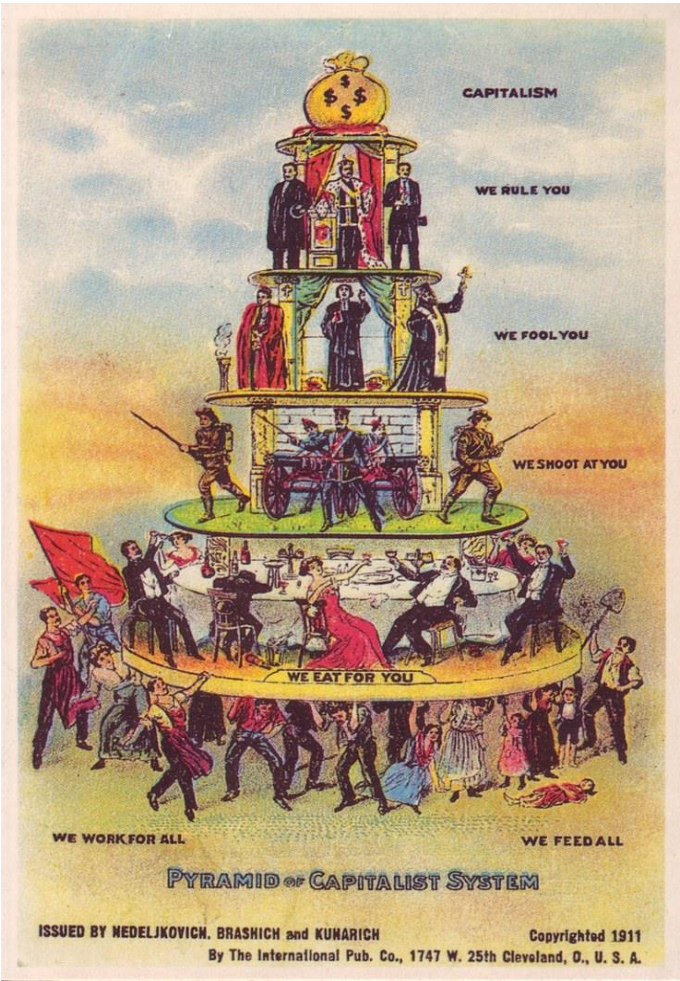
2.1 Why was there a revolution in Russia in 1917?

revolution (noun)	a fundamental and relatively sudden change in a system or organisation
autocracy (noun)	A system of government by one person with absolute power

Russian society

Look at the sources A, B and C. They are all sources about Russia at the start of the 20th century. What impression do they give about life in Russia in the first decades of the 20th century?

A Russian cartoon from 1901.



An extract from a book on the life of cotton mill workers in Russia’s capital.

It was written by a Russian priest in 1905.

They receive miserable wages and generally live in an overcrowded state, in special lodging houses. It is common to see ten or more persons living in one room and four sleeping in one bed. The normal working day is eleven and a half hours of work, exclusive of meal times. But the average day is more like fourteen or fifteen hours. I often watch the crowds of poorly clad and thin figures returning from the mill. They agree to work ‘overtime’ because their pay is so low.

An extract from a book on the life of cotton mill workers in Russia’s capital.

It was written by a Russian priest in 1905.



Before writing up your answer to the question above you should first practise making inferences and supporting them with relevant source detail below:

Source Skill	Source A	Source B	Source C
Inference			
Source Detail			

2.2 How did the Bolsheviks seize power?

abdication (<i>noun</i>)	to give up the throne (stop being king or queen)
elections (<i>noun</i>)	Where the people choose people to represent them in parliament

The events of 1917

On the evening of the 27th February, news finally reached the Tsar of the revolution in Petrograd. He ordered one of his generals to send troops to the city to defeat the uprising. The soldiers **refused**.

Nicholas II now had very little choice. For twenty two years he had ignored the lessons of history, as well as the pleadings of countless advisors, which pointed out that the only way to save his throne was to create a **more democratic government**. He had always refused and now he had no choice.

On 2nd March 1917 he abdicated the throne. In just 10 days, 300 years of Romanov rule can come to an end. The revolution so far had been relatively bloodless. Hopes were now high for a democratic state.

A **Provisional Government** (temporary government) was set up. They intended to hold elections, give people freedom of speech and introduce an eight hour working day.

However, they faced some immediate problems:

1. The war was still going badly for Russia and the people were fed up with it
2. Soldiers and workers were setting up elected councils, called **soviets**
3. Soldiers were **deserting** (refusing to fight and returning home)
4. Peasants were stealing the property of the landlords and seizing their land

Organise the list of problems above into three categories: military, political, social.
Then number in an order of importance – which would be the most significant threat to the new government?

Military	Political	Social

One of the smaller political parties hated the Provisional Government. This was the Russian Communist Party, known as the **Bolsheviks**. Their leader was a committed Marxist called Vladimir Lenin. He demanded three things:

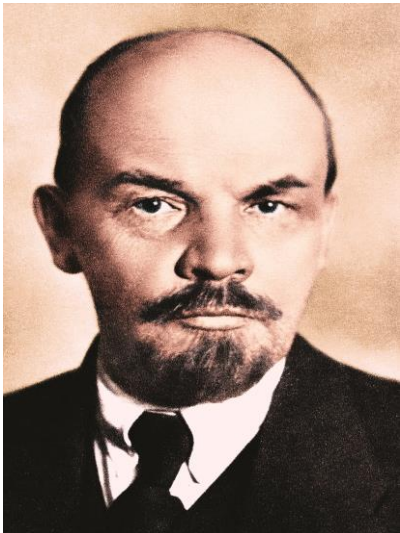
- The ending of the war
- The immediate redistribution of land from rich landowners to peasants
- The transfer of power from the Provisional Government (Duma) to the soviets (the councils run by soldiers and workers)

The Bolsheviks had a simple slogan: **‘Bread, Peace, Land’**.

Why might Lenin’s ideas be appealing to the Russian people?

Vladimir Lenin, leader of the Bolshevik Party

In 1917 he returned to Russia after 16 years in exile



The October Revolution

The army's commander-in-chief, **General Kornilov** believed that Russia's war effort was being undermined by chaos at home. He thought that people like Lenin were to blame. So in August he ordered his men to march on Petrograd to restore order.

Bolshevik soldiers (known as the **Red Guards**) defended the city. Before they could get there, Kornilov's soldiers either switched sides or gave up and returned home. The Bolsheviks were **victorious**. They were seen as the **saviours of the revolution**.

The Bolsheviks were now becoming **more popular**. They soon gained a majority of support in Petrograd. Lenin decided that the time had come to seize power.

On 25th October the Red Guards took over Petrograd. That night, they stormed the Provisional Government's headquarters at the **Winter Palace**. The next day, Lenin proclaimed the overthrow of the Provisional Government. Russian democracy had ended. The Communists were now in charge.

Why did Kornilov fail and Lenin succeed?

General Kornilov was loyal to the Provisional Government



The storming of the Winter Palace by the Red Guards



The struggle for power, 1924-28

Lenin had taken over Russia and ended the war. Yet only a few years later he was seriously ill and died in 1924. Who would succeed him as leader?

Leon Trotsky



Main organiser behind the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. He had worked closely with Lenin and led the Red Army. He was extremely intelligent, a brilliant public speaker but disliked by some, saying that he was 'too arrogant'.

Nikolai Bukharin



Bukharin was a leading Bolshevik and was very good at political theory, writing several books. Lenin liked him and called him 'the favourite of the whole party'.

Lev Kamenev



Kamenev was the leader of the Bolshevik Party in Moscow. However, he wasn't very able and not a natural leader.

Joseph Stalin



Stalin had one of the most boring jobs in the party; he was the General Secretary. He was in charge of the members in the party.

How did Stalin defeat his rivals?

Lenin's will and testament

In Lenin's will he **criticised everyone**. Trotsky was too 'self-assured', Kamenev had not supported the revolution originally and Bukharin wasn't a 'true Marxist'. The biggest criticism was reserved for Stalin. He was 'too rude', potentially too powerful and should be removed from his post. If the will was read out to everyone, Stalin would be **finished**.

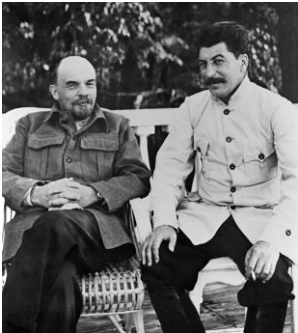
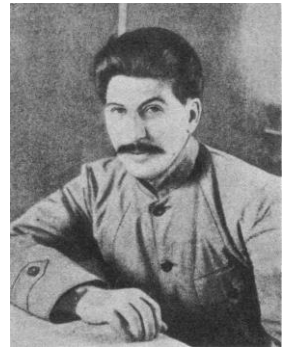
What do you think Trotsky and the others decided to do?

'Comrades, let's not argue amongst ourselves. If we show people's Lenin's will we will risk the unity of our party. Let's make sure no one knows about it'

Lenin's funeral

Lenin had been **very popular**. Stalin wanted to show he was Lenin's loyal follower. Stalin deliberately told Trotsky the **wrong date** for when the funeral was about to take place so Trotsky never turned up! It showed that Trotsky didn't seem to care about their great leader.

Stalin gave a speech saying how much of a hero Lenin was. He made sure that he was carrying the coffin and even released a picture of him sitting next to Lenin which you can see below. The picture is a fake, Stalin was never there!



Stalin's tactics

In the Central Committee meetings, Trotsky and others used to talk a lot. Stalin would keep quiet and wait until one side of the debate was winning. He would then support the winning side!

He would always **keep his thoughts to himself**. No one suspected that he would try to takeover the party. He was known as the '**Grey Blur**'.

Stalin's position

As the General Secretary, Stalin could appoint people that were loyal to him. When it came to a vote to remove Trotsky and the others, Stalin could count on his supporters. By 1928, he ruled Russia.

Quick review: How did the Bolsheviks seize power?

- In 1917 the Tsar decided to _____. The new government was called the _____ . The leader of the Bolsheviks was _____ .
- The person most likely to succeed Lenin was _____ .
- Stalin skillfully defeated his rivals. He used his position as _____ to gain more supporters.

2.3 How Stalin modernise the Soviet economy?

collectivisation (<i>noun</i>)	where something is owned collectively, not by individuals
industrialisation (<i>noun</i>)	the development of industries (factories) on a large scale

Communist Idealism

Stalin, like Lenin before him, was a **Marxist**. He wanted to create a **completely equal society**.

However, the vast majority of people in Russia were peasant farmers. They behaved liked **capitalists**. In other words, they owned their own land, try to make money for themselves, and wanted the government to leave them alone. The richest of these farmers were called '**kulaks**'.

The Communists were not happy about this. They wanted the farms to be controlled by the government on behalf of the people. They especially wanted to get rid of the kulaks – any kulaks who opposed their plans would be removed.

Stalin's solution: collectivisation

Stalin wanted to transform the Soviet Union as quickly as possible and agriculture (farming) needed to become more productive and efficient. Small farms run by private individuals would be banned. They would be combined into larger state-run farms. This policy was known as **collectivisation**.

All the peasants would join a '**collective farm**' ('kolkhoz' in Russian). On the kolkhozes the peasants would work together, share land and equipment, and produce grain and other farm produce (vegetables) according to targets set and collected by the government.

Profits would be distributed equally but if demands was high then there would be little food left for themselves.

**Soviet propaganda shows farmers happily working on the collective farms for the greater good of Russia.
The reality was quite different**



Why might collectivisation be unpopular?

Reality: The 'liquidation of the kulaks'

Many peasants **refused** to join the collective farms. Those who resisted were denounced as kulaks and arrested. Concerned that his power was under threat, in December 1929 Stalin launched a campaign to liquidate (get rid of – arrested or killed) the kulaks.

In theory, a kulak was a very rich peasant. In reality, peasants with only a couple of cows were labelled as kulaks. They suffered terribly.

Approximately **30,000** were killed in 1930-31 – most shot by communist party officials. Others were taken away from their homes. Of these, around **two million** were transported to the arctic north and to Siberia. They were forced to work in camps in appalling conditions.

Famine in the Ukraine: the 'Holodomor'

Poor weather in 1932-3 led to a limited harvest. This led to a lack of grain and a lack of food. Instead of blaming the lack of food on the harvest, Stalin blamed it on the kulaks. His target was Ukraine.

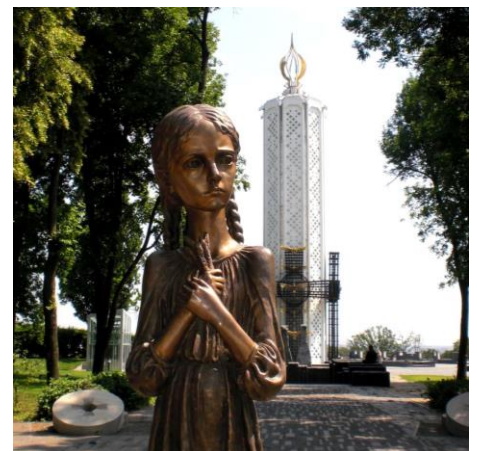
In the 1930s the Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. It has been described as the 'bread basket' of the Soviet Union because its farms produce such large amounts of grain. Stalin was determined to smash Ukrainian independence and national culture.

More and more grain was forcibly taken from Ukraine – even as people were starving. The quotas were set at such high levels that there was little left for the peasants to eat. In Ukraine, this time of starvation is known as the '**Holodomor**'.

In the Ukrainian language this means 'extermination by hunger'. Between 1932 and 1933, huge numbers died in one of the largest deliberate famines in human history. Stalin's government denied it was happening, refused foreign aid and kept the famine going. It has been estimated that during June 1933, 28,000 people died from hunger every day.

How was the image of collectivisation different to the reality?

The Holodomor Memorial site in Ukraine today



Industrialisation

Stalin wanted to transform the Soviet Union from a backward agricultural country into a modern industrial one. He knew he didn't have a lot of time since Russia could be attacked once again.

A speech by Stalin in February 1931. He was talking about the backwardness of the Soviet Union.

The history of Russia shows that because of her backwardness she was constantly defeated. Those that fall behind get beaten. We are 50 to 100 years behind the countries of the West. We must make good this distance in 10 years. If we don't, they'll crush us.

Stalin’s motives

Stalin was determined to modernise Soviet industry **as quickly as possible**. He introduced a series of targets for industry known as **Five-Year Plans**. Workers in each industry were told exactly how much they must produce. He was convinced that other countries would invade the Soviet Union. Only a strong industrial economy could produce the modern weapons that the Soviet Union needed if it was to survive such an attack.

Impact of the plan

Targets had been set for every mine, every factory and even every worker! If an individual did not meet their targets then they could be publicly shamed, have their wages cut or be sent to the camps in Siberia.

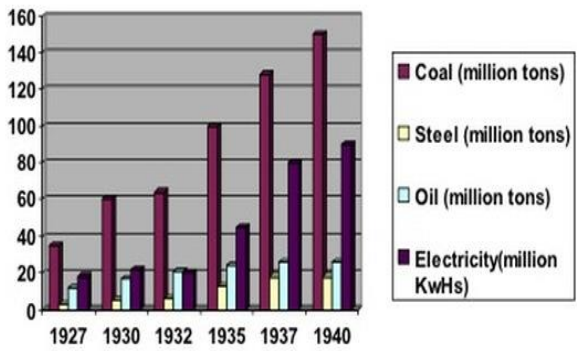
Yet, despite the hard work, terrible conditions and eventual food rationing (where the amount of food available is limited), most people were **enthusiastic** about the Five-Year Plans. The results were impressive. Coal output rose from 60 million tons in 1930 to over 100 million tons by 1935. Steel production (needed to produce tanks and aircraft) increased from 4 to 19 million tons.

By 1938 the Soviet Union had overtaken Britain and Germany in industrial output. Stalin claimed that the targets for the five year plan had been achieved in just four years!

New industrial cities grew rapidly in the Soviet Union



Graph showing the rapid increase in industrial production



Explain how Stalin modernised the Soviet economy.

One way Stalin modernised the Soviet economy was by

2.3 How did the purges and propaganda create a totalitarian state?

purges (<i>noun</i>)	the systematic removal of enemies through terror
propaganda (<i>noun</i>)	information designed to manipulate people into supporting a particular cause or idea
totalitarian (<i>noun</i>)	where a government has total control over its people

Idealism and Reality

Communists envisaged a state where everyone was happy working for the common good. Differences of opinion **would not** be a feature of life in a communist state.

Yet Stalin did not feel secure. As some of the problems in industry and agriculture increased, other leading communists became **critical** of him.

He felt that he needed to **completely control** the Russian people and the main way to achieve that was to terrorise them so they would not resist. Stalin had a **suspicious personality**. It was said that he would always have the curtains cropped at the bottom so that an assassin could not hide behind them.

The use of terror in the 1930s

The Great Purge, or the Great Terror, as it was known, started in 1934. Using the secret state police (NKVD) Stalin purged anyone who held up, criticised or opposed his plans for collectivisation of agriculture and industrialisation.

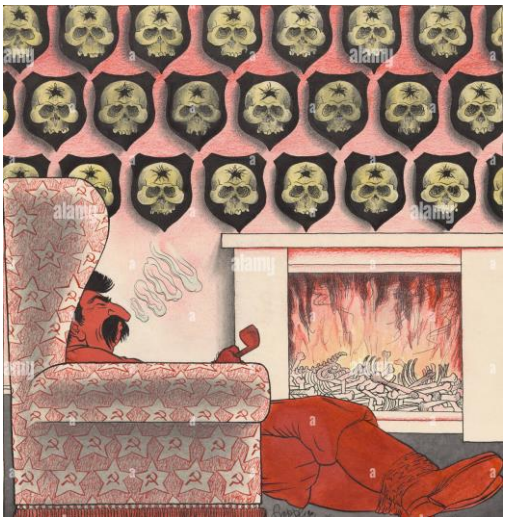
Many people were arrested for betraying the Soviet Union as '**enemies of the people**'. In reality many had done things as innocent as:

- Stamp-collecting (a link to foreign countries)
- Speaking to foreigners
- Failing to meet factory production targets.

Others were arrested for no reason at all – the NKVD was set **quotas** for the number of arrests to make in their area, and if these had not been met, they simply went around arresting more people!

In 1936 '**show trials**' took place. This was where people were forced to **confess** to their 'crimes'. It has been estimated that over 700,000 people were killed, although the real number could be much higher.

A British cartoon from 1936. Stalin sleeps peacefully next to a fire filled with bones.



An American cartoon from 1936 sarcastically shows all of the ex-Bolsheviks willingly confessing to their crimes.



Soviet Propaganda

It wasn't just fear that kept people in line and obedient to the government of Stalin. Many believed in the communist system. This belief was encouraged by the government's control over information and the way in which they tried to persuade the Russian people to support communism. This method is known as **propaganda**.

The government was keen to control the **hearts and minds** of the people – shaping their ideas, and their views of the country and the world. In order to do this, any information that was not supportive of Stalin or the Communist Party would be **censured** (blocked). That way, different views could not emerge. To inspire the Soviet people, many posters showed ordinary working looking like heroes!

Look at each example of Soviet propaganda below. What message are the Soviets trying to get across?

'For Collectivisation! For the Harvest!
A panting from 1940



**An official poster, 1939.
'Woman, get on the
locomotive'**



An official poster from 1936. The text says: 'Thank you, dear Stalin, for a happy childhood'



Source Skill	Source A	Source B	Source C
Inference			
Source Detail			

Which do you think would be most effective in establishing a totalitarian state, the purges or propaganda?

I think that propaganda would be the most effective way of establishing a totalitarian state. This is because

2.5 Review: Cycle 1 Assessment Preparation

Re-write this list of these events in chronological order. Look back through your booklet if you're not sure.

- Russian Revolution (February and October)
- Suffragettes campaign for the right to vote
- Abolition of the slave trade
- Death of Lenin
- The Norman Conquest
- Stalin becomes leader of Russia
- Black Death
- Declaration of Independence
- The First World War
- Rule of Genghis Khan

A key part of the work of an historian is to make arguments and support them with evidence. Historians often disagree because they have interpreted the past differently.

Often, historians evaluate what people in history had said at a set time in history. They use all of their knowledge to decide whether a statement is accurate or not. That is precisely what we are going to do!

Below are two statements. You will then use the remainder of this lesson planning your response to one of them. Use this booklet and the knowledge summaries from Key Stage 3 to help you.

Question 1:

‘The history of the past is but one long continuous struggle upward to equality’, said Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an American suffragist and abolitionist.

To what extent do you agree?

Question 2:

‘You cannot make a revolution with silk gloves’ (Joseph Stalin).

How far do you agree with this assessment?

Rewrite each statement in your own words so you understand the central argument it is making.

Question 1:

Question 2: