

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview 2025-26 – Unit 2: Russia 1894-1941

		Topic 1 – The rule of Tsar Nicholas II	Topic 2 – The 1917 Revolutions	Topic 3 – The Civil War and Lenin	Topic 4 – The Rule of Stalin	Introduction to Year 13
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1
12	Unit description	<u>The rule of Tsar Nicholas II</u> 13 lessons Students will study: Character, attitude and abilities of Nicholas II; political, economic and social problems of Russia in 1894; opposition, liberals, populists and Marxists; national minorities; the influence of Pobedonostsev, Witte; the Russo-Japanese War; the causes, extent, nature and consequences of the 1905 Revolution; Witte and the October Manifesto; the Fundamental Law; the Dumas; repression and reform under Stolypin; the political, social and economic situation in Russia in 1914.	<u>The 1917 Revolutions</u> 13 lessons Students will study: The impact of the First World War 1914–1917, defeats, losses, economic dislocation, food shortages, transport problems, inflation; Nicholas' leadership; Rasputin; criticism in the Duma; the events of March 1917; Kerensky, the Provisional Government and Petrograd Soviet; return of exiles and the April Theses; July Days; Kornilov Revolt; events of November 1917; the roles of Lenin and Trotsky	<u>The Civil War and Lenin</u> 10 lessons Students will study: The Constituent Assembly, Lenin decrees; Civil War, White forces, foreign intervention, Red Army, 'war communism', reasons for Bolshevik victory/White defeat; murder of the Tsar; Red Terror, Kronstadt Rising; NEP; constitution and government; strengths and weaknesses of Lenin as leader.	<u>The Rule of Stalin</u> 13 lessons Students will study: Character and abilities of Stalin; rivalries and divisions in the Bolshevik party, Trotsky, Bukharin, Kamenev, Zinoviev; Stalin's tactics and victory, 'socialism in one country' v 'permanent revolution'; consolidation of power, propaganda and 'Cult of Personality', growth of police state (OGPU, NKVD, purges and gulags); economic policies in the 1930s, agriculture, kulaks, voluntary and forced collectivisation, mechanisation; industrialisation, Gosplan, first two Five Year Plans; economic, social and political effects of Collectivisation and Five Year Plans	<u>Introduction to Civil rights</u> 4 lessons Students will learn about the conditions African Americans faced in America prior to the start of the course. This will provide context for them for next year.
	Assessment	1. The Rule of Tsar Nicholas – knowledge test (AO1) 2. 1905 Part A question (AO1)	1. The 1917 Revolutions - knowledge test (AO1) 2. 1917 revolution Part B essay. (AO1)	1. The Civil War and Lenin – knowledge test (AO1)	1. Struggle for Power Knowledge test (AO1) 2. Full paper	

Assessment types

AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

>Something More?

Curriculums at BSS are designed to nurture not only intellectual and physical development but also the spiritual growth of students. This will be through:

- Encouraging students to reflect on their experiences, beliefs and purpose and to contemplate the big Questions of Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?
- Highlighting extraordinary people, events, and discoveries that inspire awe or investigates how a sense of awe has led to breakthroughs and creativity.
- Using art, music, literature, and nature to inspire awe, wonder, and spiritual insight.
- Encouraging creative expression to connect with the inner self and the transcendent.
- Fostering a sense of belonging and interconnectedness with others, nature, and the universe.
- Encouraging self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and moral reasoning.
- Promoting open-ended investigations rather than just seeking right answers.
- Using hands-on activities, field trips and experiments to immerse students in learning and evoke wonder.

How does our curriculum do >Something More?

KS4 History:

- Highlighting extraordinary people, events, and discoveries that inspire awe or investigates how a sense of awe has led to breakthroughs and creativity:
 - ✓ **Topic 2 demonstrates the power of the individual in History, focusing on how Lenin’s tenacity led Russia to become the first communist country.**