



Year 13 PPE: Revision Guidance History

Circulation	Year 13 Students
Title	Y13 PPE Revision Guidance
Purpose	To provide revision information for PPE Examinations

You will sit two papers for your PPE exam in January This will include the following topics:

Paper 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855 - 1964

Paper 2: The English Revolution, 1625-1660

Revision topics: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855 - 1964

Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894

- Political authority and the state of Russia: autocracy; the political, social and economic condition of Russia in 1855 and the impact of the Crimean War
- Political authority and attempts at reform: Alexander II; emancipation of the serfs and attempts at domestic and military reform
- Government and Tsars: Alexander II and Alexander III as rulers; attitudes to and imposition of autocracy; key developments
- Political authority in action: Russification; treatment of ethnic minorities and Jews
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies; individuals; liberals and radical groups and the Tsarist reaction
- Economic and social developments: industrial developments and the land issue; social divisions; nobles, landowners and position of the peasantry; the cultural influence of the Church

The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917

- Political authority, government and Tsar; Nicholas II as ruler: political developments to 1914; 1905 Revolution; Duma government
- Economic developments to 1914: industrial and agricultural growth and change
- Social developments to 1914: change and conditions of working and living in towns and countryside; social divisions; cultural changes
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies, liberalism, socialism; Marxism; individuals and radical groups
- Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social problems of wartime; opposition and the collapse of autocracy; the political developments of 1917
- Political authority, opposition and government: the Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of Bolshevik government by December 1917; opposition



Part two: the Soviet Union, 1917–1964

The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941

- Political authority and government: new leaders and ideologies; Lenin's Russia, ideology and change; Stalin's rise, ideology and change
- Political authority and government: the consolidation of Bolshevik authority and development of the Stalinist dictatorship
- Economic developments: Lenin's decrees; the Stalinist economy; collectivisation and the Five Year Plans
- Social developments: effect of Leninist/Stalinist rule on class, women, young people, religion and national minorities; propaganda and cultural change
- Opposition: faction; the Red Terror and the purges
- The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1941

The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964

- Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social impact of war; effect on Stalin, government and 'the people'
- Political authority and government to 1953: High Stalinism; the revival of terror; destruction of 'supposed' opposition and cult of personality; the power vacuum on Stalin's death
- Political authority and government: Khrushchev's rise to power; policies and ideology; de-Stalinisation; political and party change
- Economic and social developments: changes in industrial organisation from Stalin to Khrushchev; agriculture and the Virgin Lands scheme; social and cultural change from Stalin to Khrushchev
- Opposition: cultural dissidents; communist divisions; hardliners and reformers; opponents of Khrushchev and his fall from power
- The political, economic and social condition of the Soviet Union by 1964

Revision topics: The English Revolution, 1625–1660

Part one: The origins of the English Civil War, 1625–1642

The emergence of conflict and the end of consensus, 1625–1629

- The legacy of James I: religious issues and divisions; relations between Crown and Parliament; relations with foreign powers
- Monarchy and Divine Right: the character and aims of Charles I; the Queen and the court; the King's advisers; ideas of royal authority
- Challenges to the arbitrary government of Charles I: reactions against financial policies; conflict over Church; reactions against foreign policy and the role of Buckingham
- Parliamentary radicalism; personalities and policies of parliamentary opposition to the King; the Petition of Right; the dissolution of Parliament and the King's commitment to Personal Rule

An experiment in Absolutism, 1629–1640

- Charles I's Personal Rule: his chief ministers; methods of government; financial policies and the reaction against them
- Religious issues: Laud and Arminianism in England and Scotland; the growth of opposition from Puritans
- Political issues: the role of Wentworth; policies in Ireland and England; the reactions against the Crown; demands for the recall of Parliament

- Radicalism, dissent and the approach of war: the spread of religious radicalism; the Scottish Covenant and the Bishops' War; the Pacification of Berwick; the second Bishops' war

The crisis of Parliament and the outbreak of the First Civil War, 1640–1642

- The Political Nation 1640: the recall of Parliament; the strengths and weaknesses of Charles I; the strengths and divisions of parliamentary opposition
- Pym and the development of parliamentary radicalism: Pym's personality and aims; the Grand Remonstrance; the London mob; popular radicalism
- Conflicts between Crown and Parliament: failure of negotiations between the King and the Long Parliament; the execution of Strafford and its political consequences
- The slide into war: the impact of events in Ireland; the failed arrest of the Five Members; local grievances; attempts to impose royal authority and the development of a Royalist Party; military preparations for war

Part two: Radicalism, Republic and Restoration, 1642–1660

War and radicalism, 1642–1646

- The First Civil War: the strengths and weaknesses of the political and military leadership of the Royalist cause
- The First Civil War: the strengths and weaknesses of the political and military leadership of the Parliamentary forces; emergence of the New Model Army; the Solemn League and Covenant; Self Denying Ordinance
- The intensification of radicalism: popular radicalism in London; religious radicalism in the New Model Army; pamphlets and propaganda
- The end of the First Civil War: divisions amongst the Parliamentary leaders; attempts at settlement; the capture of Charles I

The disintegration of the Political Nation, 1646–1649

- Political and religious radicalism: the politicisation of the New Model Army; Lilburne and the Levellers; Fifth Monarchists; Ranters and other populist groups
- Political and religious divisions: the attitude and actions of Charles I; divisions within the opposition to the King; the failure of attempts to reach a political settlement
- The Second Civil War and the reasons for its outcome
- The problem of Charles I: divisions within the army and Parliament; the trial and execution of the King

Experiments in government and society, 1648–1660

- The Third Civil War: the attempted Royalist revival; the defeat and exile of Prince Charles
- Political radicalism: failure of the Levellers and Diggers and the 'Godly Society'; Quakers, Baptists and other radical sects; the Rump Parliament as an experiment in radical republicanism; the Parliament of the Saints
- Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate: Cromwell's personality and approach to government and his refusal of the Crown; the limits of religious toleration; the Major Generals; the problem of the succession to Cromwell
- The monarchy restored: political vacuum after the death of Cromwell; negotiations for the return of the monarchy under Charles II; the legacy of the English Revolution by 1660

Each exam will be 2 hours 30 minutes.

The paper will contain a variety of question types including questions on sources and interpretations. You must answer all questions in the paper. You will need a black pen and highlighters [for question annotations] for your exam.



Further detail and revision materials can be found here:

Past Papers: [History Past Papers](#)

Save my exams: [Save my exams](#)

Massolit: [Massolit History A Level](#)

Podcasts (on Spotify or Apple Music): The Rest is History (e.g. Episodes 143 and 144 'The Trial of Charles I Part 1'), Dan Snow's History Hit (less detailed), History Extra.

Recommendations for usage:

Past Papers - Exam technique, planning questions, and practice under timed conditions.

Save my exams - Notetaking, quizzing and testing, and practice questions

Massolit - Notetaking

Podcasts - Notetaking