

## Part 2: Why did the Provisional Government fail to rule Russia well? March-October 1917



*We are the Provisional Government and we are here to rule Russia until we can arrange elections. Alexander Kerensky is our leader. However, we are having trouble making decisions because the Soviets have a LOT of power in the cities, particularly where we are based in Petrograd.*



*Kerensky*



*This relationship was known as **DUAL POWER!***

*Kornilov  
(Army General)*



*We are the Petrograd Soviet. We are running as much of the city as we can until a real government is formed. Many of our powerful members are Bolsheviks and the army has to go through us to make decisions thanks to Order #1*

## 5. How effectively did the Provisional Government rule Russia during 1917? (March-October)

Problem	Actions taken by the Provisional Government (Prov Gov)	S or F?
Peasants wanted land	The Prov Gov wanted to delay any decision on land until after elections had been held	Fail
WWI	They decided to carry on fighting in WWI and ordered their army to attack Austria and Germany in June 1917, the campaign was a disaster and this caused many mutinies and deserters within the army. Many people disliked this move	Fail
The Soviets had a lot of power	The Provisional government couldn't do much about the Soviets, they were a mixture of work place unions and politicians and were like the unofficial government running the city. The Soviets had created 'Order number 1', a pact between them and the army saying that the army would do as the Soviets wished, even if this went against what the Prov Gov wanted! This left the Provisional Government helpless.	Fail
Hunger	The Provisional Government did little to change farming methods or modernise agriculture and, although they tried to control the grain trade, the fact that money was worth very little meant that the peasants were reluctant to sell their grain. A hungry year!	Fail
Growing Bolshevik power	The Bolsheviks had a lot of people working in the Soviets and Lenin had released his April Thesis, which promised Peace, Bread and Land. Even when the Bolsheviks accidentally and started the July days riots, after many of their leaders were arrested, Kerensky needed them to defend the city against General Kornilov's attack, so he had to release them.	Success Fail
Prov Gov were divided	They were made up from a mixture of different political parties and had different aims. As a result of this they struggled to make decisions about anything. Many members resigned, were corrupt and/or refused to play a part in helping Russia during this time. There was nothing they could do to resolve this problem until after the elections.	Fail

So how effectively did they rule?

## 6. Why was the revolution of March 1917 successful?

### Key events / people:

March 10th: Strikes break out

March 12th: Petrograd army garrison begin to mutiny. Government buildings ransacked. Tsar dissolves Duma. Petrograd Soviet begin to re-emerge as a powerful force and passed order number 1

14th March: Duma stay and announce that a provisional government will be taking over the running of Russia

15th March: The Tsar abdicates

### Reasons for success:

- There was a widespread lack of food.
- Army had not been paid.
- Warm weather encouraged demonstrators onto the streets by their thousands.
- Army understood, sympathised with and in some cases knew the protestors.
- The Tsar dissolved Duma whenever they tried to solve any long standing problems.
- The army were reassured by the Soviets and Duma that there would not be consequences to their mutiny against the Tsar.

**Summary:** The massive amount of problems that the Tsar had been ignoring or suppressing since 1905 had finally got to a point where the people living in Russia were not going to tolerate it anymore. However, this time the army were absolutely sick of fighting for the Tsar, who had led them into deep losses. They wanted peace and were not willing to kill their own people to maintain a regime which was failing them

### Some possible exam questions:

Type a) Describe: give 4 facts for 4 marks OR 2 facts with supporting detail

Type b) Explain 3 reasons, one of which in depth

Type c) Give 2 sides to an argument, explaining 2 points for each and then explain which side you think is stronger and why

## PART 2: TOP 10 QUIZ

1. Which 2 groups made up the provisional government?
2. What name was given to this leadership arrangement?
3. What was a 'Soviet'?
4. What were the Bolsheviks and what did they believe in?
5. What had the Provisional Government promised to the peasants, but hadn't given them it?
6. What fatal decision did the Provisional Government make about WWI in June 1917?
7. What was 'Order number 1' and what did it mean?
8. Give 2 reasons why peasants were hungry under the Provisional Government
9. Why was the Provisional Government so divided? Give 2 reasons
10. Name the leader of the Provisional Government and the man in charge of the army.

# EXAM QUESTIONS: PROV GOV RUSSIA

## DESCRIBE:

- What was the Petrograd Soviet? (4 Marks)
- What problems did the Provisional Government face in 1917? (4 Marks)
- What was the Provisional Government? (4 Marks)

## EXPLAIN:

- Explain why the Provisional Government failed (6 Marks)
- Explain why the Provisional Government became unpopular (6 Marks)

## EVALUATE:

- How far was 'dual power' the main reason why the Provisional Government failed? (10 Marks)
- 'The main reason the Provisional Government failed to maintain power was because of WWI'  
How far do you agree with this statement (10 Marks)