**Start of Homework 1
Chapter 1 – 1894: Imperial Russia**

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| **Page** | **Key Words** | **Meaning** |
| 3 | Baltic | Referring to the Baltic Sea or the countries around it (e.g., Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). |
|  | Tsar | The title of the emperors of Russia |
|  | dominion | A territory or region under the control of a sovereign power |
|  | frontier |  The edge or boundary of a settled or developed area |
|  | Siberia | A vast region of Russia, stretching from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, known for its harsh climate and sparse population. |
|  | tundra | A cold, treeless biome found in polar regions, characterized by permafrost and low-growing vegetation. |
|  | Slavs | An ethnic group and linguistic family primarily found in Eastern Europe, including Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, and others. |
|  | provincial  | Relating to a province (a division within a country) ;someone from a rural or non-urban area. |
|  | scything | The action of cutting with a scythe, which is a large, curved blade used for mowing grass or crops. |
| 4 | peasant | A farmer or agricultural laborer, especially in feudal or rural societies. |
|  | emancipation | The process of being set free from restrictions or control |
|  | serf |  A peasant bound to the land and under the control of a lord or landowner in feudal systems |
|  | moujiks |  A Russian term for peasants, especially in the context of the serfdom system in tsarist Russia. |
|  | troikas | A traditional Russian sled or carriage drawn by three horses harnessed side by side; also refers to a group of three people or things. |
|  | Cossacks | A group of predominantly East Slavic people known for their military skill |
|  | stockade | A defensive barrier or enclosure made of wooden posts or stakes |
| 5 | conglomeration | A collection or combination of different things |
|  | bastions | Strongholds or fortifications designed to protect against attacks |
|  | seraglio |  A term used to refer to the private living quarters of the sultan in Ottoman palaces |
|  | harem | The separate part of a household reserved for wives, concubines, and female servants |
|  | necropolis | A large ancient cemetery with elaborate tomb monuments |
|  | orison | A prayer or plea, especially one spoken in a formal or reverent manner. |
|  | archaic | Describing something that is old-fashioned, outdated, or no longer in common use |
|  | Orthodox | Conforming to established or traditional beliefs, especially in religion (e.g., Eastern Orthodox Christianity). |
|  | panoply  | A complete or impressive collection of things |
|  | iconostasis |  A screen or partition in a Christian church, particularly in Eastern Orthodox churches |
|  | miters | A ceremonial headdress worn by bishops and other clergy |
| 6 | Admiralty | The branch of a nation's military responsible for naval affairs |
|  | embassies | Diplomatic missions established by a country in a foreign capital to represent the interests of the home government. |
|  | baroque | A highly decorative and elaborate style of art, architecture, and music that flourished in Europe |
|  | ornate | Elaborately decorated, often with intricate details and embellishments, especially in art, architecture, or design. |
| 7 | aurora borealis | The natural light display in the Earth's sky also known as the Northern Lights |
|  | samovar | A traditional Russian tea urn used to brew and serve tea, often made of metal. |
|  | suffused | Spread through or over something |
|  | iridescence | The property of certain surfaces to display a range of colours depending on the angle of view |
|  | decolletage | The lower part of a woman’s neckline |
| 10 | clerk | A person employed in an office or business to perform tasks such as record-keeping, or filing |
|  | province | A territorial unit or administrative division within a country |
|  | autocrat | A ruler who holds absolute power, |
|  | revulsion | A strong feeling of disgust or repulsion. |
|  | censorship | The practice of suppressing or controlling information |
|  | vigour | Physical strength, energy, or vitality |
|  | provocations | Actions or statements intended to provoke a reaction |
| 11 | Nevsky Prospect | A famous avenue in St. Petersburg, Russia |
|  | foibles | Minor weaknesses or eccentricities in someone's character or behaviour |

**Notes:**

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| **What was the landscape and weather of Russia like?** |  |
| **What was it like to live as a peasant in Russia?** |  |
| **What was St Petersburg was like?** |  |
| **What was an Imperial ball was like?** |  |
| **What was Tsar Alexander III was like?** |  |

**Chapter 2 – The Tsarevich Nicholas**

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| **Page** | **Key Words** | **Meaning** |
| 13 | Tsarevich | The title of the male heir to the throne in Russia, specifically the eldest son of the Tsar. |
|  | tuberculosis | A contagious bacterial infection that primarily affects the lungs, characterized by symptoms like coughing, fever, and weight loss. It can be fatal if untreated. |
|  | spartan | Relating to Sparta, an ancient Greek city-state known for its austere and disciplined lifestyle.  |
| 14 | wizened | Describing someone or something that is shrivelled, wrinkled, or dried |
|  | ascetic | A person who lives a simple, austere life, often for religious or spiritual reasons |
|  | Procurator of the Holy Synod | The official responsible for overseeing the administration of the Russian Orthodox Church under Tsarist rule. |
|  | bigotry |  Intolerance or prejudice against individuals or groups based on their race, religion, gender, or other characteristics. |
|  | nationalism | A political, cultural, and social ideology that emphasizes the interests, culture, and identity of a nation or group |
|  | misanthropic | Characterized by a dislike or distrust of humanity.  |
|  | bazaar | A marketplace, especially one in the Middle East or South Asia, where goods and merchandise are sold, often in a variety of stalls or shops. |
|  | constitution | A body of fundamental laws or principles that govern a state or organization, typically outlining the structure of government |
|  | free press | The principle or system in which the media and journalists are free to report news, express opinions, and investigate matters |
|  | sovereignty | The authority of a state to govern itself or another state. |
|  | providence | Divine guidance or care, often understood as the protective power of God.  |
|  | heterogeneous | Composed of different or diverse elements or components, often used to describe something made up of varied parts, such as a heterogeneous society or mixture. |
| 15 | coercive | Relating to or involving the use of force or threats to make someone do something against their will.  |
|  | triumvirate | A political regime or leadership structure involving three individuals holding power. |
|  | liberalism | A political philosophy or ideology that advocates for individual rights, democracy, free markets, and limited government. |
|  | revolutionary | Someone who advocates for or engages in a revolution, often to overthrow an established political or social system. |
| 17 | innumerable | Too many to be counted or measured; countless or vast in number. |
|  | monotonous |  Lacking in variety or interest; dull and repetitive. |
| 18 | balalaikas | Traditional Russian stringed instruments with a triangular body and three strings |
| 19 | subaltern | Referring to a person or group in a lower or subordinate position |
| 20 | laconic | Using few words; concise and to the point. |
| 21 | chagrin | A feeling of distress or embarrassment caused by failure, disappointment, or a sense of being thwarted. |
|  | amiable | Friendly, pleasant, and good-natured in manner. |
| 23 | baccarat | A popular card game often played in casinos |
| 24 | deferential | Showing respect or courteous submission to someone else’s opinions, authority, or wishes. |

**Notes:**

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| What was Nicholas’ childhood like? |  |
| What were the views of his tutor? |  |
| How was Nicholas’ grandfather, Tsar Alexander II killed? |  |
| What was Nicholas like in his 20s? |  |
| What happened to Nicholas in Japan? |  |

**Chapter 3 - Princess Alix**

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| **Page** | **Key Words** | **Meaning** |
| **26** | **rapture** | A state of intense joy or pleasure. |
|  | **sniped** | To attack or criticize someone covertly or from a distance |
| **27** | **emissaries** | Individuals sent on a mission or as representatives of a group. |
|  | **Prussia** | A historical region and state in Europe, now part of Germany and Poland. |
|  | **ardor** | Passion or enthusiasm for something. |
|  | **ebb** | A decline in strength or intensity. |
|  | **euphoic** | A state of intense happiness or elation. |
| **28** | **duchy** | A territory or domain ruled by a duke or duchess. |
|  | **liveried** | Dressed in a distinctive uniform, often for servants or attendants. |
| **29** | **diphtheria** | A bacterial infection that causes severe throat and breathing problems. |
|  | **obstinate** | Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action. |
|  | **aloofness** | A state of being distant, reserved, or indifferent |
|  | **governess** | A woman employed to teach and care for children in a private household. |
|  | **tutelage** | Instruction or guardianship; the act of teaching or guiding. |
| **30** | **muslin** | A lightweight, plain-woven fabric, often cotton |
|  | **litany** | A repetitive or lengthy recitation, often of prayers or complaints. |
|  | **blinis** | Small, thick pancakes, typically served with toppings like sour cream or caviar. |
| **31** | **insuperable** | Impossible to overcome or defeat. |
|  | **Lutheran** | A branch of Christianity that follows the teachings of Martin Luther. |
|  | **conscientious** | Showing careful attention to detail and a desire to do what is morally right. |
| **32** | **gondola** | A type of flat-bottomed boat used in Venice or a cable car in mountainous areas. |
| **33** | **capitulated** | Surrendered or yielded, often after resistance. |
|  | **exultantly** | In a manner showing great joy or triumph. |
|  | **luncheon** | A formal midday meal or a light lunch. |
|  | **Dragoons** | Heavily armed cavalry soldiers historically used for both combat and policing. |
| **34** | **indefatigable** | Tireless, unable to be fatigued. |
|  | **panorama** | A wide, unobstructed view of an area or scene. |
|  | **indomitable** | Impossible to subdue or defeat. |
|  | **Kaiser** | The title of emperors in Germany |
|  | **telegram** | A message sent by telegraph, especially a written one. |
|  | **gallantly**  | In a brave, noble, or chivalrous manner. |
| **35** | **suffused** | Spread through or over something, often in a gradual or gentle manner. |
|  | **veritable** | Genuine or true; used to emphasize a metaphor. |
| **36** | **cocoon** | A protective covering, typically made by insects during the pupal stage. |
|  | **sautoir** | A long, decorative necklace or chain worn draped around the neck. |
|  | **rhododendron** |  A type of flowering plant, often with large, showy blooms. |
|  | **chaperone** | An adult who supervises young people, typically during social events. |
| **37** | **pageantry** | Elaborate display or ceremony, often ceremonial or for public entertainment. |
| **38** | **Skaggerak** | A sea strait between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, part of the North Sea. |

**Notes:**

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| What was Alexandra’s childhood like? |  |
| What was her relationship with Queen Victoria (her grandmother) like? |  |
| What were the first meetings between Alexandra and Nicholas like? |  |
| How did Nicholas and Alexandra become engaged? |  |
| What do Nicholas’ letters reveal about his feeling for Alexandra? |  |

**Chapter 4 - Marriage**

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| **Page** | **Key Words** | **Meaning** |
| **39** | entrained | To be carried along or transported by a current or force. |
|  | nephritis | Inflammation of the kidneys, often caused by infection or an autoimmune disorder. |
| **40** | wired | To telegram |
|  | enfeebled | Weakened, debilitated, or lacking in strength. |
|  | betrothed | Engaged to be married. |
| **41** | unction | An excessive or insincere display of emotion or care, often in a comforting manner. |
|  | courtier | A person who attends the court of a monarch or other high-ranking ruler, often a servant or advisor. |
| **42** | embalmer | A person who preserves corpses for burial, often through the process of embalming. |
|  | consecrated | Made sacred or holy, often through a formal ceremony. |
|  | Decree | An official order or proclamation, usually issued by a ruler or government authority |
| **43** | cortege | A procession, especially a funeral procession |
|  | bier | A frame or platform on which a body is placed before burial or cremation |
| **44** | litanies | Repetitive prayers or supplications, often in a religious context. |
|  | Dowager | A widow who holds a title or property from her deceased husband. |
|  | brocade | A rich, often embroidered fabric with raised patterns, typically used for formal clothing or upholstery. |
|  | nuptial | Relating to marriage or weddings |
| **45** | serene | Calm, peaceful, or untroubled. |
| **46** | Affairs of State | The political, administrative, or governmental matters of a country. |
|  | bristled | To react angrily or defensively, or to stand upright, like hair on end |

**Notes:**

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| What was wrong with Tsar Alexander III? |  |
| Did Nicholas feel prepared to become the next Tsar? |  |
| What was the funeral of Tsar Alexander III like? |  |
| What did the Russian people think of Alexandra? |  |
| Why did Alexandra feel isolated and pushed out? |  |

**Questions:**

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| **#** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| **1** | What was the life of Russian peasants like? |  |
| **2** | What was the role of the Tsar? |  |
| **3** | How did Nicholas and Alexandra feel about each other? |  |
| **4** | How prepared did Nicholas feel to become Tsar? |  |
| **5** | What training and education had he had to prepare him for this role? |  |
| **6** | How do you predict his upbringing will influence his reign? |  |

 **End of Homework 1**