



MALVERN
COLLEGE

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SURNAME:

FIRST NAME:

PREP SCHOOL:

Malvern College Academic Scholarship Examinations 2023

HISTORY

Please read this information before the examination starts:

- Using the background information and a passage extract in the paper, there is **ONE** question to answer.
- The answer is worth 30 marks.
- There are two parts to the question.
- You have one hour.

HISTORY

Background information

The passage below was written and published in a Russian magazine in September 1915 by a Russian politician, Vasily Maklakov. The passage is an allegory, with the title *'The Fable of the mad chauffeur'*. An allegory is a story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden political meaning or message. Maklakov was a member of the Russian Parliament, the Duma, and represented the Octobrist Party, a liberal party that wanted the Tsar [Emperor] of Russia, Nicholas II, to share more of his power with the Duma. Until 1905, Russia had no parliament and all political power had been in the hands of the Tsar. After revolutionary disturbances in 1905, Tsar Nicholas II had reluctantly agreed to set up for the first time an elected parliament, the Duma, but, although he did call several Dumas [parliaments] between 1906 and 1914, he largely ignored the advice of the Duma and did not appoint his ministers from the members of the Duma, but instead from his court, whom he entrusted with governing the country. In 1914 the First World War broke out between the Allies (Russia, France and Britain) and the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary). In the first two years of the war, the Russian army had suffered heavy defeats and huge casualties at the hands of the German army which had occupied large parts of western Russia. Nicholas appointed himself commander-in-chief of the Russian Army in September 1915. Russia also experienced huge economic problems during the war with high price inflation and growing food shortages in the towns and cities, resulting in increasing numbers of strikes and demonstrations. In both 1914 and 1915, Nicholas II only allowed the Duma to meet for brief periods and he rejected the Duma's request in 1915 that he appoint new ministers chosen from the leading parties in the Duma.

Using the background information above, read the passage on the next page carefully and critically and then **answer the question that is below the passage**, which has two parts to it.

THE PASSAGE

Imagine that you are driving in a car on a steep and narrow road. One wrong turn of the steering-wheel and you are irretrievably lost. Your dear ones, your beloved mother, are with you in the car. Suddenly you realise that your chauffeur [driver] is unable to drive...should you continue in this way, you face inescapable destruction. Fortunately, there are people in the automobile who can drive, and they should take over the wheel as soon as possible. But it is a difficult and dangerous task to change places with the driver while moving. One second without control and the automobile will crash into the abyss. There is no choice, however, and you make up your mind; but the chauffeur refuses to give way...he is clinging to the wheel and will not give way to anybody...Can one force him? this could easily be done in normal times with an ordinary horse-drawn peasant cart at low speed on level ground. Then it could mean salvation. But can this be done on the steep mountain-path? One mistake in taking a turn, or an awkward movement of his hand, and the car is lost. You know that, and he knows it as well. And he mocks your anxiety and your helplessness: 'You will dare not touch me'.

You will not dare touch him, for even if you might risk your own life, you are travelling with your mother, and you will not dare to endanger your life for fear she too might be killed. So, you will leave the steering wheel in the hands of the chauffeur. Moreover, you will try not to hinder him, you will even help him with advice, warning and assistance. And you will be right, for this is what has to be done.

QUESTION

What does the passage tell us about the crisis that Maklakov believes Russia is facing and what course of action does Maklakov believe should be taken to deal with the situation?

(Write about one to one and a half sides in answering the question.) **[30 marks]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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