

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Bolshevik Russia

12. Explaining II – exemplification

Assessment objective AO1 – “knowledge and understanding” – is built into EVERY markscheme, so you have no alternative – you need to put some facts or quotes into your answers.

And if you want to earn marks from that knowledge, it needs to be **RELEVANT** to the question asked.

So – when you cite a fact or a quote – ask yourself: does this prove the point I am trying to make? You need what I am going to call ‘proving information’.

Imagine you are answering the question: ‘What kind of state did Lenin set up 1917–1921?’ and want an example which proves that he wanted to create a Communist economy.

Consider the following facts about Bolshevik Russia:

- (1) “Securing a regular food supply was important to stop a further revolution.”
- (2) “a Commissariat of Health was set up to develop a state-run health system.”
- (3) “The Decree on Land redistributed it to the peasants.”

Choose which of the three facts you would use as ‘proving information’ to support the idea that Lenin was trying to create a Communist economy?

All of the statements are true, but the answer is (3). You are trying to give an example which proves that Lenin was trying to create a Communist economy. Facts (1) would be true of any government, and (2), whilst a feature of a Communist society, is not an economic issue. It is fact (3) that proves Lenin was trying to create a Communist economy – it is a **Communist** measure affecting the **economy**.

1. Imagine you are answering the question: ‘What kind of state did Lenin set up 1917–1921?’ and want an example which proves that he wanted to create a Communist society.

Which of the following three facts would be the best to use, and why?

- Factories, businesses and shops taken over by the government.
- The existing bourgeois government was completely dismantled.
- The Family Code of 1918 gave women in Bolshevik Russia equal status to men.

2. The webpage provides lots of factual evidence about the kind of state Lenin set up 1917–1921. Find the relevant ‘proving information’ which **best** supports the following ideas:

- He changed the government to a communist state.
- He wanted to end the war with Germany.
- The Bolsheviks created a totalitarian state.

If you have used the webpage, you will realise that this is a task it makes incredibly easy – it is meant to!

However, now:

3. Find evidence that supports the following ideas:

- The workers fared worst under the Bolsheviks.
- The workers fared best under the Bolsheviks.
- The Bolsheviks were ruthless in holding on to power.
- The Bolshevik were ideologically driven.
- War Communism was simply an excuse to take dictatorial control of the people.