YEAR 12 HASS

Historiography & Interpretations

Analyse how historians construct and debate interpretations

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 10

Match each term to its meaning.

1.	Historiography	**a)**	judging the past by today's values
2.	Orthodox interpretation	**b)**	the established, traditional view
3.	Revisionist interpretation	**c)**	the study of how history has been written
4.	Contestability	**d)**	the idea that history is open to debate
5.	Presentism	**e)**	a view that challenges the established one

Two Interpretations

Historian A: 'The Russian Revolution of October 1917 was a popular uprising. The masses, exhausted by war and hunger, turned to the Bolsheviks because only they promised peace, land and bread.'

Historian B: 'October 1917 was not a revolution but a coup. A small, disciplined party seized power in the capital while most Russians, especially the peasants, played little part.'

Choose the best answer.

6. Historian A emphasises...

ⓐ foreign intervention ⓑ popular support from below ⓒ the actions of a small elite

7. Historian B emphasises...

ⓐ the Bolsheviks as a small group seizing power ⓑ mass peasant uprising
ⓒ the Tsar's role

8. Why might historians disagree?

ⓐ one must be lying ⓑ history never changes
ⓒ they use different evidence, methods and perspectives

Write your answer.

9. How might the context of a historian (e.g. Soviet or Western, Cold War era) shape their interpretation?

10. Write a sentence that evaluates both interpretations.

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Match each term to its meaning.

1. c) the study of how history has been written
2. b) the established, traditional view
3. e) a view that challenges the established one
4. d) the idea that history is open to debate
5. a) judging the past by today's values

Choose the best answer.

6. b) popular support from below
7. a) the Bolsheviks as a small group seizing power
8. c) they use different evidence, methods and perspectives

Write your answer.

9. Soviet historians portrayed a popular revolution to legitimise the state; some Cold War Western historians stressed a coup to delegitimise it.
10. While Historian A captures genuine discontent, Historian B rightly notes that the seizure of power itself was carried out by a small, organised minority.

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