Review Questions

Short questions

1. What was the name of the Russian emperor who abolished serfdom?

2. What was the name of the last Russian emperor?

3. The Russo-Japanese War was fought during 1904-1905. It concluded with the Treaty of Portsmouth, mediated by US President Theodore Roosevelt. Which country won the war?

4. On March 22, 1917 the United States was the first country in the world to recognize this Russian organization as legitimate. What was the name of this governmental organization?

5. During what month did October Revolution happen?

6. What was the name of the superior state institution for management of the economy of the Soviet Union in 19171932?

7. When was serfdom abolished in the whole Russian Empire?

8. In which regions of the Russian empire was serfdom abolished earlier than in the whole Russian Empire?

9. When was *prodrazverstka* replaced by *prodnalog*?

10. What are the years of the first five-year plan?

11. Fill in the blank: "One of the main forces in the economic development of Russia in the pre-revolutionary period was the rapid increase of the _____ from 74 million in 1860 to nearly 170 million in 1916."(Goldsmith)

12. Fill in the blank: "Possibly the most important structural change in the Russian economy during the pre-revolutionary period was the appearance of _____ the length of which increased from only 1,000 miles in 1860 to more than 40, 000 miles in 1916." (Goldsmith)

13. Fill in the blank: " _____ constituted 43 percent of all rural residents in European Russia in 1858." (Markevich & Zhuravskaya)

14. Fill in the blank: "The servitors tried to live off rents (in one form or another) to be collected from their estates. But the estates could not yield a significant amount of rent for the simple reason that _____ in Russia was not sufficiently scarce relative to labor." (Domar)

15. Fill in the blank: "The _____ goes through various stages of development. With its birth begins its struggle with the bourgeoisie."(Manifesto of the Communist Party)

16. Fill in the blank: "By 1923 the Soviet Union was experiencing what Trotsky referred to as the '_____ crisis'; retail and wholesale prices of industrial goods were almost double their prewar levels, while agricultural prices were at half the prewar level." (Suny)

17. Fill in the blank: " Moshkov refers also to instructions of the central committee to party organs in selected grain regions, issued in August 1929, urging them to reach high _____ percentages in that very year. 'In party circles the view was hardening to the effect that only by _____ could the problem of grain production be solved'" (Nove) (the same one word should fill both blanks)

18. Fill in the blank: "In the case of _____ , high cost and inefficiency meant simply that the peasant members were very poorly paid, since they divided among themselves whatever was available, with no guaranteed minimum of any kind. But a state farm worker was a wage-earner, and losses made by such farms had to be met out of the budget." (Nove)

19. Fill in the blank: "Thus the apparently abstract argument about _____ stratification became political dynamite, inevitably linked with the question of the kulak danger and the steps which could and should be taken to combat it." (Nove)

Longer questions

1. Based on your reading briefly describe the ideas of Alexandra Kollontai.

2. What is ratchet effect and what is the economic explanation of it?

3. Three types of goods are produced in Sovietland: wheat, clothes and machinery. In the table below you can see the prices and quantities produced at two periods of time the year zero and the year one.

	wheat	clothes	machinery
Quantity in year 0	10 mln tons	2.5 mln items	200,000 items
Price in year 0	80 rubles per ton	200 rubles per item	1000 rubles per item
Quantity in year one	11 mln tons	3 mln items	400,000 items
Price in year one	150 rubles per ton	225 rubles per item	450 rubles per item

You see that the growth rates are very different in different sectors of the economy:

$$(11 - 10)/10 = 10\% \ \textit{growth in wheat production}$$

$$(3 - 2.5)/2.5 = 25\% \ \textit{growth in clothes production}$$

$$(400 - 200)/200 = 100\% \ \textit{growth in machinery production}$$

There are two standard ways to aggregate these data and calculate the growth rate of the economy as a whole: Laspeyres and Paasche quantity indices. Calculate these indices. Use the data and your calculations to discuss the difference between base-weighted and current-year weighted output indices. Discuss the relation of this, if any, to the Gerschenkron effect.