**Russia**

**Revolutionary ideas, leaders, movements and events – Russian Revolution 1905 to October 1917**

**Question 4**

Lawyers and journalists belonging to the classes damaged by the revolution wasted a good deal of ink subsequently trying to prove that what happened in February was essentially a petticoat rebellion, backed up afterwards by a soldiers’ mutiny and given out for a revolution.

… Not the army but the workers began the insurrection; not the generals but the soldiers came to the State Duma. The soldiers supported the workers not because they were obediently fulfilling the commands of their officers, but because ... they felt themselves blood brothers of the workers as a class composed of toilers like themselves. The peasants and the workers – those are the two social classes which made the Russian revolution.”…

It would be no exaggeration to say that Petrograd achieved the February revolution. The rest of the country adhered to it. There was no struggle anywhere except in Petrograd. There were not to be found anywhere in the country any groups of the population, any parties, institutions, or military units which were ready to put up a fight for the old régime …

The revolution was carried out upon the initiative and by the strength of one city, constituting approximately about 1/75 of the population of the country.

… the February Revolution was accomplished by the workers and the peasants – the latter in the person of the soldiers. But there still remains the great question: Who led the revoltion? Who raised the workers to there feet? Who brought the soldiers into the streets? After the victory these questions became a subject of party conflict…

The mystic doctrine of spontaneousness explains nothing. In every factory, in each guild, in each company, in each tavern, in the military hospital, at the transfer stations, even in the depopulated villages, the molecular work of revolutionary thought was in progress …

To the question Who led the February revolution? We can then answer definitely enough: Conscious and tempered workers educated for the most part by the party of Lenin. But we must here immediately add: This leadership proved sufficient to guarantee the victory of the insurrection, but it was not adequate to transfer immediately into the hands of the proletarian vanguard the leadership of the revolution.

Source: Leon Trotsky, *History of the Russian Revolution,* pp. 136-48

**4a.** Identify **two** groups involved in the February Revolution as stated in the extract above.

2 Marks

**4b.** Identify **two** contributions the Bolsheviks made to the success of the Revolution

2 Marks

**4c.** By quoting from the extract and using your own knowledge, explain the role workers and peasants played in the development of a Revolutionary situation by February 1917

6 Marks

**4d.** Evaluate how useful this extract is as evidence in understanding the success of the February Revolution in 1917.

In your response quote parts of the extract and refer to different views of the Revolution.

10 Marks