1. What was Muscovy? What influences culturally diffused from the Byzantine Empire to Muscovy?
2. What were the major developments in Russia under Ivan the Great?
3. What were the major developments in Russia under Ivan the Terrible?
4. What was the “Time of Troubles” and how did it impact Russia?
5. What deal did Michael Romanov make with Russia’s nobles in order to gain their political support?
6. Why was Peter the Great interested in Western Europe? How did he show his interest in Western Europe?
7. New Hartford High School graduate Darryl Rahn (Class of 2012) once referred to Peter the Great as “The Czarpenter.” Why is this moniker appropriate for Peter the Great?
8. What was the nature of government under Peter the Great?
9. How did Peter the Great modernize and westernize Russia?
10. Why did Peter the Great build a new capital city?
Muscovy: Background

- Geographic foundation of Russia
- Centered around city of Moscow
- Culturally influenced by medieval Byzantine Empire
  - Orthodox Christian religion
  - Cyrillic alphabet
  - Mosaic arts
- Mongol Invasion (13th Century)
  - Decreased contact with Byzantium
  - Increased Asian influence in Muscovy

The Russian alphabet in capital letters

Ivan the Great (1462-1505)

- Eliminated last of Mongol control
- Began unification and centralization of Russian lands around Moscow
- In the wake of the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453, argued that Moscow was the “Third Rome” of Christianity
- Established autocracy as Russia’s form of government
  - Autocracy: political power held by a single ruler
  - Consulted Russia’s boyars (nobles) less than previous rulers
  - Began calling himself “tsar”
Ivan the Terrible (1533-84)

- Continued to expand Russia’s territorial possessions
  - East into Siberia
  - West to Baltic Sea (outlet eventually lost to Sweden)
- Built St. Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow
- Established the streltsy (a militia that protected Moscow; dominated by nobles)
- Personality: unstable and violent
  - Suffered from bouts of insanity, which may have been caused by mercury treatments for syphilis
  - Allegedly raped women
  - Accidentally killed his son during an argument following Ivan the Terrible’s beating of his pregnant daughter-in-law (for being inappropriately dressed)
- Death of Ivan’s childless son [Fyodor I] led to “Time of Troubles”

St. Basil’s Cathedral at the time of a New Year’s Eve celebration.
Time of Troubles (1598-1613)

- Civil war and power struggle fought to establish next tsar of Russia
- Chaotic time marked by assassinations, “pretenders” to the throne & foreign invasion (Poland)
- Ended with election of Michael Romanov as tsar
Michael Romanov (1613-45)

- Ascension to the throne marked the end of the Time of Troubles
- First in Romanov dynasty
- In order to gain support of nobles, Michael Romanov allowed for the further entrenchment of Russian serfs

Peter the Great (1682-1725)

*Journal 26/A: Without Peter the Great, Russia would have developed its European connections more gradually. Peter, through his tempo and methods, made the process a social revolution.*

—Palmer Chapter 26 • pp. 211-24—

*Directions:* Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.
Peter the Great (1682-1725)

• **Background**
  - nearly 7ft. tall; strong and ambitious
  - loved building and sailing ships
  - known to be cruel and vicious at times

• **Traveled incognito** to Western Europe: studied ship building, bridge construction, guns, trade, dentistry, fashion, corpse dissection, et. al.
  - The Netherlands
  - England

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Peter the Great: Reflections On

“Every day, Peter arrived at the shipyard at dawn, carrying his axe and tools on his shoulders as the other workmen did. He allowed no distinction between himself and them, and strictly refused to be addressed or identified by any title. In his afternoon leisure hours, he liked sitting on a log, talking to sailors or shipbuilders or anyone who addressed him as “Carpenter Peter” or “Bass [Master] Peter.” He ignored or turned away from anyone who addressed him as “Your Majesty” or “Sire.” When two English nobles came to get a glimpse of the Tsar of Muscovy working as a laborer, the foreman, in order to point out which one was Peter, called to him, “Carpenter Peter, why don’t you help your comrades?” Without a word, Peter walked over and put his shoulder beneath a timber which several men were struggling to raise and helped lift into place.”

Peter the Great (1682-1725)

- **Government: absolute monarchy**
  - ✓ reduced the influence of the boyars (nobles) and the representative assembly (the Duma)
  - ✓ created new administrative agencies loyal to Peter the Great
  - ✓ appointed nobles and non-nobles alike to head his government agencies (thereby reducing the influence of the nobles)
  - ✓ destroyed the streltsy (who had come to interfere in politics) and rebuilt the organization of the Russian military
  - ✓ secularized the Russian Orthodox Church: created a bureaucratic agency to control the church (Procurator of the Holy Synod)
  - ✓ created new taxes to build revenue: head tax, poll tax, beard tax, marriage tax, butcher tax, mill tax, hat tax, coffin tax, et. al.
  - ✓ used violence, terror and repression to quell dissent

- **Westernized & modernized Russia**
  - ✓ dress & etiquette
    - required nobles to cut their beards short and to cut the hand-covering sleeves off their shirts & coats
    - published a guide for proper behavior (based on many Western values)
  - ✓ military
    - established Russia’s navy
    - sought warm water ports for Russia, which led to conflicts w/ neighboring Sweden (Baltic) and the Ottoman Empire (Black Sea)
Peter the Great (1682-1725)

- **Westernized & modernized Russia (cont’d)**
  
  ✓ Economic
  
  - instituted mercantilism
  
    ➡ encouraged exports
  
    ➡ developed mining, metallurgy & textiles
  
    ➡ organized Russians and foreigners into companies
  
    ➡ provided selected businesses with government money
  
    ➡ allowed some businesses to use serf labor
  
    ➡ attempted to build 6 canals (completed 1)
  
  - sent Russian workers to Western Europe to gain technical and organizational skills
  
  - invited foreign craftsmen to live and work in Russia

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Peter the Great (1682-1725)

- **Westernized & modernized Russia (cont’d)**
  
  ✓ Built new capital on the Baltic Sea: St. Petersburg
  
    - known as Peter’s “window to the West”
  
    - Western architecture: palaces, canals, columned buildings, domes
Video Spotlight: Peter the Great

AP European History • Muscovy, the Rise of Russia & Peter the Great • J.E. Walters, G.W. Whitton & Matteo Prokosch

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## Exam Skills (ES): Comparison

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<thead>
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<td>Cultural achievements</td>
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**Peter the Great (1682-1725)**

*Journal 26/B*: Peter the Great’s whole system of centralized absolutism, while in form resembling that of the West, was in fact significantly different.

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*Palmer Chapter 26* • pp. 211-24
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<tr>
<td>• <em>A History of Western Society</em>, 5/e, John P. McKay, et. al. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995).</td>
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