Example Answers

**Ivan III (the Great)** - He claimed succession from the Rurik dynasty. He freed a large part of Russia after 1462 and organized a strong army which gave the new government a military emphasis it would long retain. He used loyalties to the Orthodox Christian faith and to Russia to win support for his campaigns. By 1480, Moscow had been freed from any payment to the Mongols.

**Third Rome** – Ivan insisted that Russia had succeeded Byzantium as a third Rome. He implied that this meant that Russia would be grand expansive.

**Tsar (Czar)** - Or Caesar, it means “the autocrat of all the Russians.”

**Ivan IV (the Terrible)** - He continued the policy of Russian expansion. He put greater emphasis on controlling the tsarist autocracy. He killed many Russian nobles, whom he suspected of conspiracy.

**Cossacks** – They were peasant-adventurers that were used by rulers to inhabit newly conquered regions. They were volunteers for future expansion, and conquered the Caspian Sea area and the western Siberia area across the Urals.

**Boyars** - Russian nobles.

**Time of Troubles** - Ivan IV died without an heir. This led to power claims from the boyars. Sweden and Poland attacked Russian territory. In 1613, an assembly of Boyars chose a member of the Romanov family as tsar.

**Michael Romanov** - He reestablished internal order without great difficulty. He drove out foreign invaders and resumed the expansionist policy of his predecessors.

**Romanov dynasty** - They ruled Russia until the great revolution of 1917.

**Alexis Romanov** - He was Michael’s successor, and he abolished the assemblies of nobles and gained new powers over the Russian church. He purged the church of many superstitions and errant traditions.

**Old Believers** - They were exiled to Siberia or to Southern Russia, where they maintained their religion and extended Russia’s colonies.

**Peter I (the Great)** - The son of Alexis. He extended his predecessors’ policies of building up tsarist control and expanding Russian territory. He added a more definite interest in changing selected aspects of Russian economy and culture by imitating Western forms. He had exceptional intelligence and ruthless energy. He gained an interest in Western science and technology. He brought scores of Western artists back with him to Russia.
“Chancery of Secret Police” - Russian secret police that prevented dissent and supervised the bureaucracy.

“Westernization” – Under Peter the Great, the Russians were influenced by Western culture. Peter had many reforms that he forced the people to follow.

**St. Petersburg** - The capital of Russia.

**Catherine the Great** - Wife of Peter III. She ruled after her husband’s death. She defended the powers of the central monarch.

**Pugachev rebellion** - A cossack chieftain claimed to be the legitimate tsar, promised an end to serfdom, taxation, and military conscription along with the abolition of the landed aristocracy.

**Radishev** - He was one of the first Western-inspired radicals. He sought the abolition of serfdom and more liberal political rule. He was harassed by Catherine’s police and his writings were banned.

**Partition of Poland** - Russia was able to gain agreements with Austria and Prussia for the partition of Poland. Three partitions in 1772, 1793, and 1795 eliminated Poland as an independent state. Russia was given the majority of the spoils.

**serfdom** – Peasants were forced to live on the lands of their landlords. They were expected to pay high taxes and to work extensively for their landlords, or else they would be harmed.

**obruk** - This was a source of agriculture and mining and manufacturing power. The labor obligation of peasants, or obrok, tended to increase steadily.

**Week 15: Chapter 18: Part 2: Questions**

1. How did the Mongol occupation affect Russian civilization?

The Mongol occupation did not change much of Russian culture. The Mongols were content to leave local administration in the hands of the locals, thus not overly affecting the basic Russian culture. However with an economy that became increasingly agricultural and dependent upon peasant labor, literacy declined.

2. How did the expansion of Russia and the Ottoman Empire eliminate the “independent central Asia” and the Mongol threat?

Territorial expansion focused on central Asia as the Russians moved to the Caspian Sea and the Ural Mountains making their way into Siberia as well. Cossacks were recruited to occupy the new lands while loyal nobles and bureaucrats received land grants in the territories. These land grants gave Russia increased agricultural regions and labor sources. As the Russians advanced in
the North, the Ottomans moved in the south, both uniting various territories thus eliminating independent central Asia as a source of nomadic invasions.

3. Describe the Russian expansion westward under the Ivans and through peter the Great?

The Tsars in an effort to close the cultural and economic gap opened by the Mongols began making a series of controlled contacts with the West. Ivan III began sending diplomatic missions to the west and Ivan IV established trading contracts with the British.

A distinct architectural style developed as Italian artists brought in by the tsars built churches and the Kremlin. In 1613, the Romanov family took control, wit Michael restoring internal order. Russia secured part of Ukraine and pushed its southern border to Ottoman lands. Alexis Romanov increased the tsar's authority by abolishing the assemblies of nobles and restoring state control over the church.

4. Describe Peter’s policies and how did they change Russia? What was the impact of Westernization under Peter the Great? Give examples of it in action.

Peter I, the Great, continued past policies, but began a massive Westernization program. Peter disguised himself and traveled to the west, gaining an interest in science and technology. He returned to Russia with many artisans, industrialists and other bright minds who would all help him move Russia forward Tsarist Peter was an autocratic ruler; revolts were brutally suppressed and reforms were initiated through state decrees. Peter increased the power of the state through recruitment of bureaucrats from outside the aristocracy and by forming a Western-type military force. A secret police was created to prevent dissent and watch over the bureaucracy. Peter moved the capital of the nation to St. Petersburg, aligning it more with the west.

Peter's reforms influenced politics, economics, and cultural change. The bureaucracy and military were reorganized on Western principles. The first Russian navy was created. The councils of nobles were eliminated and replaced by advisors under his control. Provincial governors were appointed from the center, while elected town councils were under royal authority. Law codes were systematized and the tax system reformed to increase burdens on the peasantry. In economic affairs metallurgical and mining industries were expanded. Landlords were rewarded for utilizing serfs in manufacturing operations. The changes ended the need to import for military purposes. Cultural reforms aimed at bringing in Western patterns to change old customs. Nobles had to shave their beards and dress in Western style. Peter attempted to provide increased education in mathematics and technical subjects. He succeeded in bringing the elite into the Western cultural zone. The condition of upper class women improved. The first effort in Westernization embodied features present in later ventures in other lands. The changes were selective; they did not involve ordinary people. No attempt was made to form an exporting industrial economy.*

* answer taken directly from Chapter 24 study guide, Stearns book, released on the web via the publisher’s website at occawlonline.pearsoned.com/bookbind/pubbooks/stearns_awl/
Information is listed under the heading: What Industrialization Meant.
5. Describe Catherine’s social, economic and political polices and how did they effect Russia?
What was the extent of Westernization under Catherine the Great?

Catherine the Great extended central authority after the Pugachev rebellion. A follower of the Enlightenment (she brought Voltaire to stay at her court), she nevertheless ruled as an enlightened despot eschewing the broad sweeping reforms in favor of a strong royal authority. Catherine continued patronage of Western art and architecture, but the French Revolution caused her to ban foreign and domestic political writings. She did, however, continue expansion creating more colonies in Siberia and claiming Alaska. Russian expansionist policies continued. Territories, including the Crimea on the Black Sea, were gained in central Asia from the Ottomans. Catherine pushed colonization in Siberia and claimed Alaska. Russian explorers went down the North American coast into northern California. In Europe Catherine joined Prussia and Austria to partition Poland and end its independence.

6. Read the two readings on page 412 (“The Nature of Westernization”) and answer the questions at the end of the readings.

In what sense did reformist measures strengthen Russian autocracy?

All are forced to participate in the reforms, thus solidifying the role of the Tsar. Catherine’s “Instruction” reinforces the role of the autocratic ruler by defining it and explaining its necessity. Reforms were meant to encourage the autocratic state and satisfy many without having them resort to the other political ideas that were troubling the western states.

Why might 18th century Western thinkers admire reformist tsars?

The reformist tsars offered some aspects of equality (school for all) and an understanding of elements of the social contract (line 520 in the “Instruction”)

What relationships to the West did reform measures suggest?

It is well known that Catherine invited Voltaire to her court, his influence and that of other enlightenment philosophers is apparent in her document. It is also common knowledge that Peter toured through Europe, observing technology and western behaviors during his reign. Both works suggest a western-based model with an emphasis on education and law reform.

What do the documents suggest about the motivations of leaders such as Peter and Catherine?

Both attempted to reinforce their standing while paving the way for a greater nation to rule. Peter chose to educate the masses, which would allow his selective technological advances to take root and reshape Russia into a major military power. Catherine attempted to legitimize her claim to the throne, solidify her position and press forward with expanding Russian interests.

Were they similar?

Yes, to an extent, both were “selective westernizers”
Which Westernizer maintained a closer match between their claim and appearances and Russia’s real conditions?

Peter the Great

7. What was the nature (describe) of Russian serfdom? How was it different and similar to feudalism found in Europe during the Middle Ages?

Serfdom was encouraged by the government in the 16th century as a means of extending state control over the peasants. In 1649, serfdom became hereditary and later laws tied the serfs to the land and strengthened the legal rights of the lords. Serfs in Russia were more similar to slaves than to serfs in the West as they could be bought and sold at the owner’s whim.

8. Why did Russia become economically dependent on the West?

With the vast majority of the Russian population being rural, most trade in Russia was handled by Westerners. Peter the Great’s Westernization increased trade, however the nobility, wary of a challenge to their authority prevented the emergence of a strong commercial class. This led Russia to depend upon Western markets for manufactured goods.

9. What is the basis for the culture of the Russian masses? Give examples.

Although composed of many varying ethnicities, the utilization of large core groups to settle new areas coupled with the overall push towards unified westernization helped develop a national identity. All shared common experiences and beliefs including Orthodox Christianity, village life, system of serfdom, and being agriculturally based.

10. What characteristics did Eastern Europe share with Russia? Be specific.

Both Eastern Europe and Russia utilized serfs who were taxed and policed by landlords. Their coerced labor was used to produce grain for export. Both relied on Western merchants to bring in manufactured goods & luxury items, which in turn led them to become economically dependent upon the west.