**Pre-Sixth Day work and summer reading**

**QEGS History Department**

**Unit 1: Russia, 1917-1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin**

**Unit 2: Mao’s China, 1949-76**

Essential reading:

Unit 1: Russia in revolution –in this booklet

Unit 2: Imperial China and the Chinese revolution – in this booklet. Introduction to Chinese History – in this booklet.

**Recommended reading:**

**Unit 1: *“A people’s tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924”* by Orlando Figes**

Synopsis: Vast in scope, based on exhaustive original research, and written with passion, narrative skill and human sympathy, *A People's Tragedy*is the definitive account of the Russian Revolution for a new generation. It has won the Wolfson History Prize, the WH Smith Literary Award, and the Longman/*History Today* Book of the Year Award.

**Unit 2: “*Wild Swans: Three daughters of China”* by Jung Chang**

Synopsis: Few books have had such an impact as Wild Swans: a popular bestseller which has sold more than 13 million copies and a critically acclaimed history of China; a tragic tale of nightmarish cruelty and an uplifting story of bravery and survival.

Through the story of three generations of women in her own family – the grandmother given to the warlord as a concubine, the Communist mother and the daughter herself – Jung Chang reveals the epic history of China's twentieth century.

Breath-taking in its scope, unforgettable in its descriptions, this is a masterpiece which is extraordinary in every way.