

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Collectivisation

16. Measuring Importance I – Modifiers of Importance

Many GCSE students, asked to write about the importance of an event or development, will simply list its results, as though their importance is self-evident.

It is not: you have to list the results, say *how important* you believe each to be, and then explain why/how it was important/unimportant.

For this, you will need to use modifiers of importance such as:

**considerably, hugely, indispensably, particularly, profoundly, greatly
to some degree, moderately, generally
inconsequential, lesser, limited, little, minor, slight, some**

Say I have been asked to write the essay: ‘How greatly was Russia changed by Collectivisation?’, and the first result I wish to consider are the Kulaks. I plan the paragraph as follows:

- **Basic sentence:** They were eliminated.
- **Modifier:** profound
- **Explanation of Effect:** lost everything farms/ stripped even of clothes/ forced to leave the village
- **Proving information:** 20,000 executed/ / → GULAG or exiled to Siberia

And I can write my first paragraph thus:

One important effect of collectivisation was the elimination of the kulaks. They were profoundly impacted, because they lost everything – their farms, homes, even their clothes and food – and were forced to leave the village. Half a million died – 20,000 were executed – and the rest sent to the GULAG to work as forced labour, or exiled to colonise Siberia.

1. Use the following grid to plan what you would write for the other groups in society:

Result	Modifier	Explanation of effect	Proving information
Other villagers	<i>hugely</i>	Had to join the collective/ told how to farm/ excessive quotas → famine	.....
Women	<i>greatly</i>	.....	<i>Babi bunty</i>
Townspeople	.....	Received adequate food supplies	.....
Farming methods	.....	.....	.....
Agric. Production	.....	.....	.....