

# TELL ME WHY

## Stalin's Dictatorship

**This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.**

Print off and cut out the cards below and place them face down. Turning over each in turn, explain why it happened, giving as many reasons as you can to explain each statement.

<b>Being General Secretary of the Communist Party helped Stalin gain power</b>	<b>The 1936 Constitution subjected the government entirely to the control of the Communist Party</b>	<b>The 1936 Constitution introduced 'direct voting'</b>
<b>Kirov was murdered in 1934</b>	<b>Stalin set up the Gulag</b>	<b>After 1936, the government organised show trials</b>
<b>In 1936, Stalin put Nikolai Yezhov in charge of the NKVD</b>	<b>790,000 people were executed</b>	<b>Tomsky committed suicide</b>
<b>In 1935, many Communist Party members were arrested</b>	<b>Both the Christian and Muslim religions were persecuted</b>	<b>5 million kulaks were 'eliminated'</b>
<b>81 out of 103 generals and admirals were purged</b>	<b>Loyal 'apparatchiks' (party officials) got the best jobs, flats, etc.</b>	<b>People wore a 'smiling mask'</b>
<b>There were statues, paintings and banners of Stalin everywhere</b>	<b>All art had to follow the rules of 'Socialist realism', celebrating the proletariat</b>	<b>All writers had to be members of the Union of Soviet Writers</b>
<b>Stalin set up the <i>Glavlit</i></b>	<b>Subjects like genetics and sociology were forbidden</b>	<b>Stakhanov was celebrated</b>
<b>Novelists had to write Communist stories with a happy ending</b>	<b>Children were taught that Stalin was the Great Leader</b>	<b>New pages were written and pasted over old pages of history textbooks</b>
<b>National dress and customs were forbidden</b>	<b>Army recruits were posted to distant places in ethnically mixed units</b>	<b>5 million Ukrainians were allowed to starve in 1933–1934</b>