***To what extent is it correct to suggest that the treatment of the Russian working classes was uniformly bleak in the years 1855 – 1964 ?***

**Use the factual information beneath as a starting point to build your essay plan. These are a selection of facts to support your answer, but it is not meant to be a complete summary of all relevant points – there are certainly other relevant points not included so try to think of your own to add to those below. Remember that your plan must include direct comparisons, not just a long list of facts and events.**

1953 agricultural workers paid 1/6 wage of urban worker

Human rights eg right not to be forced into marriage in 1861 Emancipation

Suffering in the First and Second World Wars

Improving education

Overcrowded housing, esp under Witte and Stalin.

Long hours – six days per week the norm throughout

1917 Decree on the Land

Famines in 1891, 1921 and 1932

Strikes crushed eg 1912 Lena Goldfields massacre

1880 Peasant Land Bank formed

Khrushchev built cheap apartments to reduce housing shortages

Attempt to modernise through electrification

Factory inspectorates, 1880s