Why has Siberia become an increasingly valuable area to Russia?

A. The Russian military uses the region to limit the influence of China on East Asia.
B. Most Russian prisons are built in the area to take advantage of the remote location.
C. The many natural resources have led to expanding industry and trade.
D. Siberian ice is transported west for agriculture in drought regions around the Ural Mountains.
Irena Sandler was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 2007. Who received the coveted prize that year?

Former Vice President Al Gore received the prestigious award for his work to raise awareness about climate change.
Siberia has many natural resources which have not been utilized. All of the following are probable reasons for this except -

A. Climate
B. Elevation
C. Distance
D. Terrain
Who is credited with opening Russia to foreign trade?

Yekaterina Alexeevna or Catherine II, also known as Catherine the Great, was the most renowned and the longest-ruling female leader of Russia, reigning from 9 July [O.S. 28 June] 1762 until her death at the age of sixty-seven.
How do the Ural Mountains affect the distribution of climate regions in Russia?

A. The northern side of the mountain range receives cool, rainy weather, while the southern side is a hot desert.
B. The western side of the mountain range receives warm continental winds, while the eastern side is much cooler and drier.
C. The western side receives cold, arctic weather, while the eastern side is protected from weather extremes and has a mild climate.
D. The western side of the mountain range receives warm Mediterranean winds, while the eastern side is affected by Indian Ocean monsoon rains.
Define the word Dao.

Taoism: philosophical system developed by Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu advocating a simple honest life and noninterference with the course of natural events.
Why do the cultures of the republics of Transcaucasia differ considerably from cultures in Russia and the European republics?

A The region is bordered by the Black and Caspian Seas which has allowed for migration of peoples from the east and influences from Chinese culture.

B The Black Sea separates the region from Russian and European cultures, and ties it closer to Siberian cultures, allowing it to develop a unique culture in isolation from the rest of Russia.

C After World War II, the states gained independence from Russia and began receiving millions of immigrants from Turkey and Iran, which gave them a culture unique to their region.

D The region is bordered to the north by the Caucasus Mountains and is at geographic crossroads with many languages and cultural influences distinct from Russian and European cultures.
What is the name of the royal palace which has served, for centuries, as the official residence for Russian kings and presidents?

The Kremlin