



A-level HISTORY

Component 2H France in Revolution, 1774–1815

Friday 9 June 2023

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2H.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a speech on the future of the King, given in the National Convention, by Maximilien Robespierre, 3 December 1792.

Louis is dethroned by his crimes. He conspired against the Republic: either he is condemned or the basis of the Republic is under question. To propose the trial of Louis XVI is to question the revolution. If Louis may be tried, he may be acquitted; if he may be acquitted, he may be innocent. But if he is innocent, what becomes of the revolution? If he is innocent, what are we but false accusers? There is another difficulty – to what punishment shall we condemn him? For myself, I detest the penalty of death; I neither love nor hate Louis, I hate nothing but his crimes. However, a dethroned king in the very heart of a Republic not yet consolidated? A king, whose very name draws foreign war on the nation? Neither prison nor exile can make his an innocent existence. It is with regret I pronounce the fatal truth: Louis must perish rather than 100 000 virtuous citizens! Louis must perish because our country must live.

Source B

From a report in an American newspaper, 12 December 1792. The report's author had been educated in Geneva and Paris but returned to America in 1785.

In referring to the present disastrous situation of France, many may be inclined to believe that the revolution has produced horrible effects. But if we survey these effects with the eye of deliberation, we shall find that our views ought to change. The King exercised a despotic power without restraint. The nobles built around them a circle equally tyrannical, although to a lesser extent. The trouble-making nobility have deliberately and uniformly endeavoured to bring the revolution into disrepute. We have seen émigrés, secretly assisted by the King and Queen, build up armies to attack France. We have seen them dispatch envoys into France to attack every measure that promoted the progress of Liberty. In league with the King and Queen they have spread wicked lies. We have witnessed them engage several nations to assist in murdering their countrymen, and in deluging their native soil with blood. For these treacherous actions, Louis XVI must die.

Source C

From a report on the execution of Louis XVI, in The Times newspaper, published in London, 25 January 1793.

Louis was to be beheaded in the Place du Carrousel, but reasons of public safety persuaded the Executive Council to move the execution to the Place de la Révolution. Since the decree ordering the death of King Louis XVI was issued, a general dismay has prevailed throughout Paris. The sans-culottes are the only persons that rejoice. The honest citizens, hiding in their homes, could not suppress their heartfelt grief and mourned in private with their families at the murder of their much-loved Sovereign. 5

The unfortunate Louis had the soul of generosity, and a mind enlightened with the finest ideas of human virtue. He was not that man which his enemies reported. Louis' heart was sound, his head was clear, and he could have reigned with glory. His mind possessed suggestions of wisdom and even in his last moments, when the spirit of life was ready for another world, he spoke with firmness and with resignation. Thus has ended the life of Louis XVI. 10

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the execution of Louis XVI in January 1793.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'In the years 1777 to 1787, neither Necker nor Calonne put forward any significant proposals for the reform of French finances.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

'The 1801 Concordat was the most important reason for the consolidation of Napoleon's rule in France.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1799 to 1804.

[25 marks]

0 4

To what extent was Napoleon himself responsible for the defeat of his armies in the years 1812 to 1814?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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