
HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/56

Paper 5f Special Subject: The French Revolution, 1774–1794

May/June 2017

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Section A

Nominated topic: The period 1789–1792 and the descent into civil and foreign wars

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *A leading member of the Jacobins expresses his view about the prospect of war in a debate in the Jacobin Club.*

The most extravagant idea that can be born in a politician's head is to believe that it suffices for a nation to send armies against a foreign people to make them adopt its laws and its constitution. No one loves armed missionaries; and the first counsel that nature and prudence gives is to repulse them as enemies. Favourable movements are those which are directed against tyrants, like the American revolt, or the events of 14 July 1789; but foreign war, provoked and directed by the government in the circumstances we are in, is a nonsensical movement, a crisis which can lead the state towards death. Such a war can only sidetrack public opinion, create diversion from the justified anxiety of the nation, and present a favourable crisis to which the outrages of the enemies of liberty would take advantage. War in the hands of the King's government is only a means to subvert the constitution, only the climax of a profound conspiracy to destroy liberty.

Robespierre, Speech, 11 January 1792.

- B** *The leading member of the faction most enthusiastic for war counters Robespierre's speech in the debate at the Jacobin Club.*

The position that divides Maximilien Robespierre and me is, 'What position should we take in the circumstances we are in?' If we are in danger, then I do not say it is necessary to attack, but to defend ourselves; and since in defending ourselves, it is better to make our enemy's country the theatre of war rather than our own, it is necessary to carry the war beyond the Rhine. The émigrés have succeeded in gathering forces at Worms, at Coblenz, in arming them and in provisioning them. The princes of the Holy Roman Empire have granted them asylum and aid. Does it not become necessary that France deploy its forces to crush its impudent neighbours to stop these menaces? The French court wants war and it is necessary to be wary of its secret intentions. Certainly, the fears that we have of the King's Government are well founded. However, we would do well to deploy a great force in order to compel the Holy Roman Emperor to recognise our rights and deprive the malcontents of this support.

Jacques-Pierre Brissot, Speech, 20 January 1792.

C *A Parisian royalist gives an account of the situation in wartime Paris.*

It is rumoured that some of our army are in revolt against its leaders and ready to disband. Should such a misfortune occur, villages and small towns will be pillaged by bands of soldiers. Vital foodstuffs are rising to exorbitant prices, policing and security are non-existent, people commit murder and robbery in the middle of Paris as if they were in the depth of a forest. Wine, wood, vegetables are going up in price. Bankruptcies are common and interest rates are getting higher every day. We can expect our poor France to be invaded in horrific fashion: from Spain in the south; from Piedmont and Savoy; from Switzerland and Germany, and in the north from Prussia. It is said England is getting ready to fight us as well. Entire regiments are going over to the émigrés.

Louis Charles Fougeret, Letter, August 1792.

D *A revolutionary newspaper in Paris reports on the situation during the September Massacres.*

Châlons is threatened by the presence of Prussian troops. The enemy from the north is not yet at our gates but before facing the enemies from outside, we have foiled the terrible plot of the villains who would have burnt Paris. About the middle of the next night a signal would have been given for all the prisons in Paris to open; the prisoners were to be armed as they left. The horde of freed devils, swollen by the aristocrats and commanded by treacherous officers, would have protected the King's hasty escape and his rendezvous with the Prussian and Austrian rulers. The clear instincts of the people frustrated these actions. In the prisons of the Conciergerie the stones of the courtyard were bathed in blood. The impatient people seized the sword of justice. Death sentences were passed and carried out as soon as they had been passed. Bandits, murderers, forgers and traitors were killed. The people are human but without pity.

Revolutions of Paris, September 1792.

E *A modern historian comments on expectations at the outbreak of war.*

King, court and ministers hoped, even expected, to recover their authority either at the hands of victorious foreign armies or at the head of victorious French ones. Thus, Louis XVI went along with the majority led by the Brissotin war party. In March 1792 three generals were put in charge of the armies: two of them, Rochambeau and Lafayette, were heroes of the American War of Independence. War was declared in April by a ministry including the excellent General Dumouriez. Volunteers were easily inspired and their quality was excellent compared with the rabble of the royal eighteenth-century army. Vast numbers could be raised in a country as populous as France. The war was seen from the first as a crusade against enemies without and within, and a way of unmasking traitors.

J F Bosher, *The French Revolution*, 1989.

- (a) How far does Document B challenge the view about war in Document A? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the decision to go to war in 1792 was misguided? In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 What best explains the failure to achieve a lasting solution to the financial problems of the French crown in the period 1774–1788? [30]
- 3 How important was popular discontent in weakening the French monarchy in 1789? [30]
- 4 How well did Robespierre serve the Revolution 1793–1794? [30]

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