



A-level HISTORY

The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715

Paper 2F

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **2F**.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
-

Section AAnswer Question 01

Source A

From “**Télémachus**” by Fénelon, an Archbishop, who wrote this instructional book privately for Louis XIV’s grandson while he was his tutor in 1695; it was published in 1699.

The evils of war never fail to drain a nation and put it in danger of ruin, even when victorious: with whatever great advantage they begin it, they are never sure to end without being exposed to the most tragical chances of fortune. The smallest mistake snatches away the victory and puts it into those of your enemies. You depopulate your country, leave your ground uncultivated, interrupt commerce, nay, which is far worse, you weaken your laws and suffer manners to be corrupted. The youth do not any more apply themselves to learning; pressing wants make you give way to a pernicious licentiousness among your troops. Justice, good order, everything suffers in this confusion. A King who spills the blood of so many men and is the cause of so many miseries to acquire a little glory, or to extend the limits of his kingdom, is unworthy of the glory he hunts after and deserves to lose that which he possesses, by endeavouring to usurp what belongs to another.

Source B

From a satirical English pamphlet published in 1703 in London called “The King of France his catechism: Written at Paris, and licens'd by Father La Chese, the French King's confessor”.

Question: Which are your Majesty's principal virtues?

Answer: To oppress my own subjects and threaten all my neighbours, to disturb all Europe with my unjust wars and increase my dominions by a devious peace, to covet universal monarchy as much as I did in the Spanish Netherlands. To keep no oath farther than my own interest and to be wholly governed by the secret councils of Madame de Maintenon.

Question: How did your majesty acquire the name of Louis the Great?

Answer: By tyranny and unjust conquests; I seized upon those principalities that adjoined my own and gave a reason for it by the mouths of my invincible Dragoons.

Question: Which is the greatest check to your Majesty's ambition?

Answer: Those troublesome English, that fought so like devils at Liege and Vigo, damned fellows that swallow smoke and gun-powder like beef and pudding.

Source C

From an open letter to his subjects June 1709, by Louis XIV, to be read aloud by the parish priest in every church during attempts to open peace negotiations with France's enemies in the War of the Spanish Succession.

The more I have testified my willingness to remove the alleged fears of my enemies about my designs to extend my power, the more they add new demands to their original ones and, making use of the name of the Duke of Savoy or of the interests of the Princes of the Empire, they have led me to realise that their intention was only to strengthen themselves in the states bordering my dominions, at my expense; and to open for themselves an easy path to penetrate into the interior of my kingdom at any time it might suit their interests. But, although my tenderness for my people is as strong as that which I have for my children; although I share in all the evil that the war inflicts on such faithful subjects and that I have shown all Europe that I sincerely desired them to enjoy peace, I am persuaded that the French people would oppose themselves to conditions so contrary to justice and the honour of Frenchmen.

0	1
---	---

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Louis XIV's foreign policy.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2

'The Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659 was the most significant event in French foreign policy between 1643 and 1661.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 3**

'The movement of the court to the Palace of Versailles in 1682 transformed Louis' relationship with the nobility in France.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

'Colbert's successors as finance ministers broadly followed his economic and fiscal policies between 1699 and 1715.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements if notified.

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.
