

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY
Unit 1

HS1C

Alternative C: Absolutist States in Europe, 1640–1725

Wednesday 7 June 2006 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS1C.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- All questions carry 25 marks.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Versailles was a royal residence, the seat of the government and a stage set. But it was more; it was a device for weakening the French nobility and binding it to the personal service of the king. At its peak, some 10 000 persons were resident in the palace; some were working members of the administration, most were sword nobles, with their families, who competed strenuously for Louis XIV's favourable attention. The key to the system was patronage, for the king had an inexhaustible supply of favours which only he could bestow.

Adapted from AF UPTON, *Europe 1600–1789*, 2001

Source B Adapted from a letter from Colbert to Louis XIV in 1665

Your Majesty knows that apart from brilliant military exploits, nothing demonstrates the grandeur and spirit of princes better than buildings; and all future generations take the measure of princes by the proud mansions that they have constructed during their lifetimes.

Source C In origin and style, Versailles was part of a new project to exploit the arts in the service of the King. This was not a new idea; what was new was the scale and grandeur of Versailles and Louis XIV's artistic patronage. The display of power was to take place in theatrical surroundings that were designed to overawe. Foreign ambassadors, in particular, were extremely impressed. Versailles was the centre of the governing system, the meeting point for King, courtiers, ministers, ambassadors and deputations from the provinces.

Adapted from PR CAMPBELL, *Louis XIV*, 1993

(a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the importance of 'weakening the French nobility' (line 2) in the context of Louis XIV's attitude to government. (3 marks)

(b) Use **Sources B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

Explain how **Source C** differs from the views put forward in **Source B** about the purpose of Versailles. (7 marks)

(c) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

Explain the importance of Versailles, in relation to other factors, in explaining Louis XIV's success in extending the power of the monarchy. (15 marks)

EITHER Brandenburg-Prussia 1640–1688

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

In 1640 Brandenburg-Prussia was a sorry little ruin held in contempt by all the European Powers, yet the ridiculous Hohenzollern dominions became, in a very few years, something to reckon with.

Adapted from JL WHITE, *The Origins of Modern Europe 1660–1789*, 1964

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘a sorry little ruin’ (line 1) in the context of Frederick William’s inheritance in 1640. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why the Northern War (1655–1660) was useful to Frederick William. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘Building up his army was the main purpose of Frederick William’s domestic and foreign policies.’ Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

In 1653 the Diet of Brandenburg agreed to the tax known as the *contribution* to be raised for a period of six years. The nobility did not approve this decree without substantial concessions from the Elector, so much so that they thought this was a victory for the aristocracy.

Adapted from R VIERHAUS, *Germany in the Age of Absolutism*, 1988

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘substantial concessions from the Elector’ (line 3) in the context of Frederick William’s negotiations with the Estates of Brandenburg in 1653. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Frederick William was able to strengthen royal finances. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘Frederick William’s achievement in domestic policy was the gaining of the loyalty of the nobility.’ Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

Turn over for the next question

OR Russia 1690–1725

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

4 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

Before the reign of Peter the Great a delicate balance had been struck between patriarch and tsar. The tsar, a father figure, had never been more than the patriarch's equal.

Adapted from W MARSHALL, *Peter the Great*, 1996

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'patriarch' (line 2) in the context of Russian society at the beginning of Peter the Great's reign. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great was determined to reform the Church. (7 marks)
- (c) 'Reform of the Church was the most effective of Peter the Great's domestic policies.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

5 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

In 1698 Peter's Great Embassy was cut short because of another revolt by the streltsy. Peter was alarmed by this continual source of danger and, in particular, by the suspicion that Sophia, his step-sister, might have been in touch with the rebels. He was determined to crush the streltsy for ever.

Adapted from MS ANDERSON, *Peter the Great*, 1995

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'the streltsy' (line 1) in the context of the early years of Peter the Great's reign. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great had undertaken the Great Embassy. (7 marks)
- (c) 'The demands of Peter the Great's foreign policy was the most important reason for the domestic reforms in his reign.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

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Question 1 Source A: AF UPTON, *Europe 1600–1789*, Hodder Arnold, 2001. Reproduced by permission of Edward Arnold.

Source C: PR CAMPBELL, *Louis XIV*, Longman, 1993.

Question 2: JL WHITE, *The Origins of Modern Europe 1660–1789*, John Murray, 1964. Reproduced by permission of John Murray.

Question 3: R VIERHAUS, *Germany in the Age of Absolutism*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Question 4: W MARSHALL, *Peter the Great*, Longman, 1996.

Question 5: MS ANDERSON, *Peter the Great*, Longman, 1995.

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