

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



## HISTORY

HS1C

### Unit 1

### Alternative C: Absolutist States in Europe, 1640–1725

Wednesday 6 June 2007 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.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

#### Advice

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

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

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

**Source A** Adapted from Louis XIV's Commercial Ordinance, March 1673

Because commerce is the source of wealth, we have taken great care to make it flourish. This was why we created several overseas trading companies and committed ourselves to the construction of a great number of ships. These companies have achieved all the success which we expected  
5 of them.

**Source B**

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**Source C** Colbert's preoccupation with reducing imports whilst increasing the export of French industrial products was not popular with guild members. Colbert's policy meant encouraging foreign craftsmen and also introducing a competitive element which might threaten the guilds' prosperity and  
5 position in society. In addition, the king was willing to grant privileged status to those who ran new enterprises. For example, an ordinary man who had three children working in factories was exempted from the taille.

Adapted from R METTAM, *Government and Society in Louis XIV's France*, 1977

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

Explain briefly the importance of 'overseas trading companies' (lines 2–3) in the context of Colbert's economic policy. (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** on the reasons for opposition to Colbert's economic reforms. (7 marks)

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

Explain the importance of state regulation, in relation to other factors, in explaining Colbert's success in strengthening the French economy up to 1683. (15 marks)

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**EITHER     Brandenburg-Prussia 1640–1688**

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

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

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- (a) Explain briefly what was meant by ‘Westphalia’ (line 4) in the context of Frederick William’s foreign policy. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Brandenburg-Prussia became involved in the Northern War of 1655–1660. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘The only achievement of Frederick William’s foreign policy in the years 1648 to 1688 was the survival of his scattered territories.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

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

In 1657 Frederick William insisted that defence of the country authorised him to decide what needed to be spent and how, regardless of what the Estates wanted. It was this policy during the Northern War, and not the agreement with the Brandenburg Estates of 1653, which allowed him to solve his problems.

Adapted from D MCKAY, *The Great Elector*, 2001

- (a) Explain briefly what was meant by ‘agreement with the Brandenburg Estates of 1653’ (lines 3–4) in the context of Frederick William’s authority. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why there was a dispute between Frederick William and the Estates of East Prussia in the years 1640 to 1688. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘It was only by compromise with the Estates that Frederick William was able to extend his power within his territories in the years 1640 to 1688.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (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.

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- (a) Explain briefly what was meant by ‘colleges’ (line 3) in the context of Peter the Great’s system of government. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great felt that there was a need to reform central government. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘The reform of local and of central government increased the authority of Peter the Great within Russia.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

**5** On 9 August 1700, the day after he heard of the truce with the Turks and six months after the Danes and also Saxon troops had attacked the Swedes, Peter declared war. In doing so he set his foot on a path which would take him to a defeat of staggering proportions at Narva.

Adapted from J SWIFT, *Peter the Great*, 2000

- (a) Explain briefly what was meant by ‘Narva’ in the context of the Great Northern War. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great began a policy of Westernisation. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘Good fortune was the most important reason for the success of Peter the Great’s foreign policy.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

### END OF QUESTION

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Question 1 Source B: R BRIGGS, *Early Modern France*, OUP, 1998. By permission of Oxford University Press

Source C: R METTAM, *Government and Society in Louis XIV’s France*, Palgrave Macmillan, 1977

Question 2 M SHENNAN, *The Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia*, Routledge, 1995

Question 3 D MCKAY, *The Great Elector*, Pearson Education, 2001

Question 5 J SWIFT, *Peter the Great*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2000. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd

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