

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2H France in Revolution, 1774–1815

---

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 letter written by a deputy who was retiring from the National (Constituent) Assembly, to his constituents, 11 October 1791.

The intentions of the various European powers are not at all clear at the moment. It is established, as you know, that several monarchs have formed a coalition to stir up and support the former French aristocracy against our revolution. Either they must wipe out all the effects of the French Revolution, or they must expect to see this epidemic spread as far as their own lands. The interests of all despots and their nobility are threatened by our revolution: it is to be expected, politically, that they will all come together to destroy it. 5

'So, will there be a war?', you will say. I think so and, although it would indeed be a terrible thing, I venture to say that I would welcome it, for the following reason. Providence, ever-watchful over our nation, well knows that this evil group, the aristocrats, need to be uprooted for the long-term good of France. 10

**Source B**

From a speech by Maximin Isnard, a Girondin representative from south-east France, to the Legislative Assembly, 20 November 1791.

Even if the émigrés are not thinking of attacking us, the very fact that they have assembled in a threatening manner is enough to make it essential that we disperse them by force and put a stop to it all.

The French people will become the most outstanding in the world. As slaves they were bold and daring; could they be timid and weak now that they are free? Always ready to fight for freedom, always ready to die for it, rather than be cast back into chains, that is the nature of the French people. Let us say to Europe that if its ministers engage kings in a war against the people, we will engage the people in a war against kings. Finally, let us say to Europe that ten million French people, fired by freedom, armed with the sword, the pen and reason could single-handedly change the face of the world, and make all tyrants tremble on their thrones of clay. 10

**Source C**

From a speech on the subject of war given by Robespierre to the Jacobin Club, January 1792.

What position should the Nation and its representatives take regarding our internal and external enemies, under the circumstances in which we find ourselves? The most outrageous idea that can be born in a politician's head is to believe that it is sufficient for a Nation to go to war against a foreign people to make them adopt that Nation's laws and constitution. No one loves armed missionaries; it is natural to repulse them as enemies. 5  
The Declaration of the Rights of Man cannot be imposed on other peoples by armed force.

A war against external enemies, provoked and directed by the government, in the circumstances we are in, is a nonsensical suggestion which would cause a dangerous political crisis. Such a war can only side-track public opinion from a much-needed internal crisis to overthrow the enemies of liberty within. It is for these reasons that I stand here and strongly oppose war. 10

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 attitudes to war in France, 1791/92.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

---

**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

---

**0 2** How important were Enlightenment ideas in weakening the Ancien Régime before 1789?  
**[25 marks]**

**0 3** 'Political instability was the most significant problem facing France during the Thermidorian Reaction and the Directory, in the years 1794 to 1799.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4** How successful were Napoleon's financial and economic policies in strengthening France?

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Copyright information**

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2021 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

