

A-level HISTORY

Component 2F The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

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 7042/2F.
- 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 a letter written by the marquise de Sévigné, a well-informed member of Louis XIV's court, to her daughter, just before war broke out in 1672.

Yesterday, the Dutch ambassador presented his letter from the Dutch government offering concessions to the King, who did not look at it, although the Dutchman offered to read it. The Ambassador pointed out that the Dutch Republic's government had never acted other than in a polite way, yet this great army had been prepared by the French King for the sole purpose of attacking them. The King then spoke in a wonderfully majestic and gracious manner, said that he was aware that the Dutch were stirring up his enemies against him and that he considered it wise not to allow himself to be taken by surprise. He was powerful on land and sea in order to defend himself. He would do whatever was necessary for his personal *gloire* and for the good of the French state. He then nodded to the ambassador in such a way as to indicate that he did not want any reply.

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Source B

From Louis XIV, 'Memoirs for the Instruction of the Dauphin', written during the 1680s.

I do not think that I need to make any attempt to excuse myself for the declaration of war against the Dutch in 1672 by referring to any motives other than personal ones. Ambition and the pursuit of *gloire* should always be forgiven in a prince, and especially in a young prince who had been so well treated by fortune as I was, in being King of a powerful country like France. A King need never be ashamed of looking for fame. This is because fame is a good thing that must be pursued ceaselessly and with great determination. The search for fame alone is better able to secure the achievement of our aims than any other alternative. A monarch's reputation is often more effective in making gains through warfare than even the most powerful armies. All conquerors have actually gained more by their reputation than they have achieved purely by the sword.

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Source C

From a book by Sir William Temple, 'Observations upon the United Provinces of the Netherlands', published in 1673. Temple was an Englishman who lived in the Dutch Republic for two years and advised Charles II.

There are many reasons for the war and its disasters. The vast trade of the Dutch has both led to their greatness and their fall. They have left their wealth to be protected by foreign mercenaries, which has much lowered the nation's fighting spirit. The only danger they saw was from France, and they believed that danger was not immediately to themselves but to the Spanish Netherlands. They thought that being allied with England and Sweden in a Triple Alliance, they were not in any danger from the French. This made them a temptingly easy target to the powerful French King. The Crown in France may be destined for greater achievements and empires than have existed in the Christian World since the Holy Roman Empire was formed nearly a thousand years ago. This is because of the extent and population of the country, its revenues, the greatness of its land forces and the growth of its sea forces within these two years past, the conduct of its ministers and chiefly the genius of its King.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the reasons for the outbreak of the Dutch War in 1672.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'The Frondeurs had failed by 1653 mainly due to the personal ambition of the Prince de Condé.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

To what extent was Louis motivated by political factors in his struggle against Jansenism?

[25 marks]

0 4

'The Treaty of Utrecht completely transformed the balance of power in Europe.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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