



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## History

## HIS2C

### Unit 2C The Reign of Henry IV of France, 1589–1610

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2C.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

#### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** Looking back, the years 1598 to 1610 have come to be regarded as a golden age in France, partly because of the charisma and good luck of the King and partly, no doubt, because of the fortunate coincidence of economic prosperity after the disasters of the 1590s. Henry IV, while undoubtedly a lively and effective leader, in marked contrast to his predecessors, nevertheless succeeded more in disguising the weaknesses of the crown than in effectively reforming its administrative and financial machinery. His achievement lay essentially in giving new prestige to a badly damaged image of monarchy. Henry's reign was one of compromise. 5

Adapted from Thomas Munck, *Seventeenth Century Europe*, 1990

**Source B** Henry was able to win convincing victories over his enemies and took his masterful ways with him from the battlefield into the Council Chamber. 'I wish to be obeyed' was his uncompromising reply to those who presumed to question his decisions. Wise, witty and warm-hearted, Henry's personal qualities played an important part in the restoration of French royal authority after almost 40 years of powerlessness and humiliation. By 1610, the King was obeyed by all, the treasury had a surplus and the civil wars were successfully ended. 5

Adapted from Geoffrey Parker, *Europe in Crisis*, 1980

**Source C** Reality could never have matched the legend. Henry IV could not eliminate the forces of instability in France. What he could do was establish a political consensus. Religious fanatics, ambitious princes, awkward lawyers, Spanish infiltrators, corrupt treasurers, violent provincial nobles and peasants in revolt still existed, but the climate was much less kind towards them and they were much less close to the surface of political life by 1610. The established institutions all felt a new confidence in their ability to contain instability. More importantly, the hierarchical society on which the stability of the State depended had been strengthened. It was, of course, the case that contentious issues which divided social groups in France were avoided. 5

Adapted from Mark Greengrass, *France in the Age of Henry IV*

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the reign of Henry IV in France.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 2** Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far did Henry IV succeed in restoring stability to France in the years 1598 to 1610?

**[24 marks]**

**Either**

**Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the economic recovery of most French towns was slow before 1598.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 4** 'Sully's main contribution to economic recovery in France was the development of transport systems.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

or

**Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the Habsburgs posed a threat to Henry IV.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 6** 'In the years 1601 to 1610, Henry IV's diplomacy brought peace to France's frontiers.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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