Edexcel GCE
History
Advanced
Unit 3
Option B: Politics, Protest and Revolution

Monday 3 June 2013 – Morning
Time: 2 hours

You must have:
Sources Insert (enclosed)

Instructions
• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• There are two sections in this question paper. Answer one question from Section A and one question from Section B on the topic for which you have been prepared.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information
• The total mark for this paper is 70.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
• The quality of your written communication will be assessed in all your responses – you should take particular care with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.

Advice
• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Keep an eye on the time.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A

Answer ONE question in Section A on the topic for which you have been prepared.

You should start the answer to your chosen question in Section A on page 3. Section B begins on page 11.

B1 – France, 1786–1830: Revolution, Empire and Restoration

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

1 To what extent were the financial weaknesses of the government of Louis XVI responsible for the collapse of absolute monarchy in France in 1789?

(Total for Question 1 = 30 marks)

OR

2 ‘Napoleon’s reforms in France in the years 1799–1807 were primarily concerned with consolidating his own power.’ How far do you agree with this opinion?

(Total for Question 2 = 30 marks)

B2 – Challenging Authority: Protest, Reform and Response in Britain, c1760–1830

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 ‘Attempts to reform the political system in Britain in the years 1760–85 were totally driven by a few committed individuals.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 3 = 30 marks)

OR

4 ‘The defeat of radicalism in Britain in the years 1793–1815 owes more to popular patriotism and the evangelical revival than it does to government repression.’ How far do you agree with this opinion?

(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 30 MARKS
SECTION A

Put a cross in the box indicating the first question you have chosen to answer ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then put a cross in another box ☑.

Chosen Question Number:

Question 1 ☐ Question 2 ☐
Question 3 ☐ Question 4 ☐
SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B on the topic for which you have been prepared.

You should start the answer to your chosen question in Section B on page 13.

B1 – France, 1786–1830: Revolution, Empire and Restoration

Study the relevant sources in the Sources Insert.

Answer EITHER Question 5 OR Question 6.

EITHER

5 Use Sources 1, 2 and 3 and your own knowledge.

How far do you agree with the view that the flight to Varennes in June 1791 was the key factor in the process of France becoming a Republic?

Explain your answer, using Sources 1, 2 and 3 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(Total for Question 5 = 40 marks)

OR

6 Use Sources 4, 5 and 6 and your own knowledge.

How far do you agree with the view that the Peninsular War was the key factor in the destruction of Napoleon’s Empire?

Explain your answer, using the evidence of Sources 4, 5 and 6 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)
Study the relevant sources in the Sources Insert. Answer EITHER Question 7 OR Question 8.

EITHER

7 Use Sources 7, 8 and 9 and your own knowledge.

How far do you agree with the view that it was the government’s use of spies that created the threat of revolution in the years 1815–20?

Explain your answer, using Sources 7, 8 and 9 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(Total for Question 7 = 40 marks)

OR

8 Use Sources 10, 11 and 12 and your own knowledge.

How far do you agree with the view that the Industrial Revolution brought about ‘a step forwards’ for workers (Source 10, line 31)?

Explain your answer, using Sources 10, 11 and 12 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS
SECTION B

Put a cross in the box indicating the second question you have chosen to answer ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then put a cross in another box ☑.

Chosen Question Number:

- Question 5 ☐
- Question 6 ☐
- Question 7 ☐
- Question 8 ☐
B1 – France, 1786–1830: Revolution, Empire and Restoration

Sources for use with Question 5

SOURCE 1
(From Tim Blanning, The Pursuit of Glory; Europe 1648–1815, published 2007)

A major milestone on the road leading from absolute monarchy to radical republic was reached on the night of 20–21 June 1791, when Louis XVI and his family tried to escape from France. This advertised for all the world to see that the King was a prisoner in his own country and his apparent cooperation with the new regime during the past two years had been insincere. This put republicanism squarely on the political agenda for the first time, but it did not yet put an end to the monarchy. The soft centre of revolutionary politics was still large enough to prevent the radicals taking control. Republican demonstrations were suppressed, republican clubs were closed, and the new constitution was hurriedly brought to completion. As the new legislature, the ‘Legislative Assembly’, met for the first time on 1st October 1791, most of its members hoped that the Revolution was over.

SOURCE 2
(From Antonia Fraser, Marie Antoinette, published 2001)

The King accepted the Constitution on 14th September. Publicly, he did so ‘according to the wish of the great majority of the nation’. Privately, like the Queen, he thought that it would prove unworkable. And that he would benefit from the subsequent upheaval. As ‘King of the French’ – with the Dauphin as the ‘Prince Royal’ – he allowed himself to be turned into a constitutional monarch of limited powers. But he was not totally powerless. The King could choose ministers and, although he could not declare war, the new Legislative Assembly, which replaced the previous Constituent Assembly on 1 October, could only go to war if the King asked them to do so.

SOURCE 3

The attempt at liberal monarchy instituted by the Constitution of 1791 did not even last a year. Caught between the aristocratic reaction with the King at its head and the popular movement in the streets, the middle classes who were in power did not hesitate to whip up external difficulties in order to ward off the dangers they faced inside France itself. With the complicity of the King, they hurled France and the Revolution into the turmoil of war. But the war destroyed all the calculations of those who sought to use it for their political ends. It gave new life to the revolutionary movement and speeded up two different developments, the overthrow of the throne and – some months afterwards – the fall of the ruling middle classes themselves.
Many historians consider the Peninsular War a mere sideshow to more significant events in eastern Europe, as Napoleon himself often offhandedly remarked. However, the significance of the war in Napoleon's overall defeat was colossal. First it provided a huge boost in Britain's continuous and often lonely campaign against Napoleon. Secondly, the Peninsular War had been a colossal drain on French resources, with anything up to a third of a million soldiers engaged, many of them crack troops that Napoleon could ill afford to spare from his other fronts, particularly in 1812–14. The drain on France's financial resources was equally acute. It was a deeply unpopular war in France, which had never felt itself threatened by Spain. Enforced recruiting drives had been raised every year for nearly six years, most of them falling on the peasantry, which had been one of Napoleon’s main sources of support. Undoubtedly, this contributed to the Emperor’s growing unpopularity within France itself.

It cannot be over-emphasised that the Napoleonic Wars were not won by the British army. It was not the Spanish ulcer, but the Russian heart attack which destroyed Napoleon. The Peninsular War represented a terrible drain on Napoleon’s resources, but it was containable for as long as he did not get drawn into a war on two fronts. In contrast to Napoleon, Wellington commanded no more than 75,000 men in total, and tactical excellence was easier to deliver when he personally knew all his regimental commanders, in a way that would have been impossible if he had commanded an army nine times the size, as Napoleon did in Russia.

The French people in 1814 thought it monstrous that the Emperor, after losing two huge armies in successive disasters, should presume to form another. In the course of a few months, Napoleon became downright unpopular. The nation wanted peace, and it was rapidly coming to the conclusion that its master did not want to give it. The French were weary and discouraged and they began to offer passive resistance – the only right he had left them. The malcontents, who had been growing in number since 1812, were now beyond counting. People stopped paying taxes; requisition orders were not obeyed. The population looked on at the invasion and took no action, at any rate, as long as the allies managed to hold their troops in check; and in the south the English were quite well received, for they could be relied upon to pay their way.
Sources for use with Section B. Answer ONE question in Section B on the topic for which you have been prepared.

B2 – Challenging Authority: Protest, Reform and Response in Britain, c1760–1830

Sources for use with Question 7

SOURCE 7
(From Joyce Marlowe, The Peterloo Massacre, published 1971)

1 Oliver was the most famous spy of the period. He was a failed builder who drifted into the job of government spy. His only qualifications appear to have been that he possessed a vivid imagination and he was a frustrated actor, ready to play whichever role suited him, composing the plot as he went along. That Sidmouth, the Home Secretary, should employ such untrained, unsuitable characters has been condemned. But once having employed them, he failed to back them up efficiently. Oliver, for example, was arrested as a genuine radical, the magistrates not having been informed by the Home Office that he was in their area. It was this ill-timed arrest that led to his exposure. Once the storm broke, the charges levelled at the Government were not only the disgracefully un-English one of employing spies, but the more serious one of deliberately sending out ‘agents provocateurs’ to stir up trouble, to create the Pentrich Revolutions.

SOURCE 8
(From Malcolm I Thomis and Peter Holt, Threats of Revolution in Britain 1789–1848, published 1977)

One reason why the government chose to pursue repressive policies towards the reform movement during this period is that it was badly informed about its true nature. One reason why it was badly informed is that, in the absence of any proper machinery for detecting the true state of affairs, it had to rely on the random offerings of spies, who were professionals only in the sense that they were paid for the intelligence they supplied. The uncovering of the role of Oliver in the Pentrich Rebellion rendered the whole government intelligence open to disbelief, and has added to the problem of assessing the nature of the threat that revolutionaries posed. Oliver had supplied accurate and very useful information during his tours of spring 1817, though his efforts had clearly demonstrated the inability of the successful spy to avoid playing also the part of an agent provocateur.

SOURCE 9

The post-war years were scarred by distress and discontent. Prices and wages fell in all sectors, while discharged soldiers added to unemployment. To the upper classes it seemed that a lack of all respect for established authority and ancient institutions was leading to revolution. In February 1820, a group of Cato Street conspirators plotted to murder the entire Cabinet. They were foiled by Sidmouth’s spies, who deliberately allowed them to approach a climax rather than nipping them in the bud, and Arthur Thistlewood and four others were executed for high treason.
B2 – Challenging Authority: Protest, Reform and Response in Britain, c1760–1830

Sources for use with Question 8

SOURCE 10
(From Dorothy George, England in Transition, published 1931)

One of the most vital points in our judgement of the (so-called) Industrial Revolution must be the question: did it bring distress and degradation to the workers or did it mean a step forwards? That it was a real advance in social status, I think can hardly be doubted. That it was a material advance, statistics of health and wages show. That there were victims of this advance, as of others, is, of course, certain. Among them (conspicuously), the hand-loom weavers and (perhaps) the agricultural labourers.

SOURCE 11
(From Kenneth O. Morgan (ed.), The Oxford Popular History of Britain, published 1984)

The new industrial towns were small in area, and densely packed, as walking to work was universal. Urban land usage accorded with economic power: the numerically tiny property-owning class, possibly less than 5% of the population in a cotton town, often occupied 50% of the land area. Working people lived where factories, roads, canals and, later, railways allowed them to. The results were squalid. Nineteenth-century towns smoked and stank and were, for the workers, expensive both in terms of rent and of human life. An adequate house might take a quarter of a skilled man’s weekly income, and few families were ever in a position to afford this. As a result, not only did slums multiply in the old inner-city areas – the rookeries of London, the cellar-dwellings of Liverpool and Manchester – but new regionally-specific types of slum were created by landlords – the back-to-backs of Yorkshire.

SOURCE 12

Within the working class, the first group to share largely in the benefits of industrialism was not that of the factory workers who, though they improved themselves, did not have a large surplus over and above immediate necessities, but the top ten to fifteen percent of wage earners who came in the course of the nineteenth century to be called the labour aristocracy. These were chiefly craftsmen. Below, and after them in the scale and speed of improvement, came the factory workers themselves. Textbooks tend to concentrate on their fight against long hours and bad working conditions. However, they did not consider themselves badly paid except in periods of slump or short working time. It is true that cotton operatives’ average wages were consistently amongst the lowest for any industry, but this was because only about a quarter of them were adult men and the rest women, youths and children. For men, wages ranged from about 1.3 to 3 times the northern farm labourer’s average.
Acknowledgements
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