

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 6W**

**HS6C**

**Alternative C Reform in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1765–1790**

Thursday 12 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 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 *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6C.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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 part (c).

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Answer **all** questions.

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

**Source A** The title of co-regent proved to be incorrect for Joseph as Maria Theresa always had the last word, usually supported by Kaunitz. Although Joseph sometimes got his way, 'junior tri-regent' would have been a more accurate description of his status. The bitterness and frequency of the disagreements of the three were dictated by the strength of the personalities involved. Habsburg councils were constantly being disrupted by Maria Theresa threatening to abdicate, Kaunitz threatening to resign or Joseph threatening to withdraw from the co-regency.

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Adapted from TCW BLANNING, *Joseph II*, 1994

**Source B** Joseph II restarted the task, begun in his mother's reign, of reforming institutions and he counted on the civil service to enforce his will. He adopted Haugwitz's idea of concentrating all the civil affairs of Austria and Bohemia within a single chancery. The provinces were placed under the authority of six 'governments' each run by a governor appointed by Joseph. The Estates administration was suppressed and the Estates lost their financial freedom. This was a total victory for absolutism. However, in complete contradiction, Joseph II also strengthened the autonomy of Hungary. Of course, the loyalty of officials was not enough to ensure the smooth running of administration, as a common language was needed. Here Maria Theresa had been instrumental as she had imposed instruction in German in all schools.

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Adapted from J BERENGER, *A History of the Habsburg Empire 1700–1918*, 1997

**Source C** Joseph aimed to integrate all his provinces into a unified empire and to crush the power of the nobles. These were tasks which had been carefully avoided by Maria Theresa. Joseph was confident that, backed by the power of the modern state, opposition from a handful of selfish nobles would quickly crumble. He was wrong.

5

Adapted from W OPPENHEIM, *Europe and the Enlightened Despots*, 1990

**Source D** In economic affairs, Joseph did nothing new, but the agricultural sector was profoundly affected by a number of measures which originated in Joseph's humanitarian impulses. The first of these, in 1781, abolished all forms of hereditary servitude in Austria and Bohemia.

Adapted from J GAGLIARDO, *Germany under the Old Regime 1600–1790*, 1991

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** about Joseph II's influence during the co-regency. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of the effectiveness of Maria Theresa and Joseph II in reforming the administration of the lands of the Habsburg monarchy? *(10 marks)*

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

'Joseph II failed because he was too ambitious and lacked the moderation of Maria Theresa.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1765 to 1790. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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Question 1 Source A: T C W BLANNING, *Joseph II*, Longman, 1994.

Source B: J BERENGER, *A History of the Habsburg Empire 1700–1918*, Longman, 1997.

Source C: Adapted from W OPPENHEIM, *Europe and the Enlightened Despots*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1990. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

Source D: J GAGLIARDO, *Germany under the Old Regime 1600–1790*, Longman, 1991.

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