

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY
Unit 6W

HS6D

**Alternative D The Crowd in the French Revolution,
1789–1794**

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 HS6D.
- 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).

Answer **all** questions.

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

Source A The great riots of 1789 were only a beginning. The political indoctrination of the *sans-culottes* with the new ideas of the Revolution had barely yet begun. Clubs and fraternal societies were formed which, after 1790, opened their doors to wage earners and craftsmen. By such means the ideas of the democrats and
5 later of the more radical republicans were transmitted to and absorbed by the Crowd. Even so, of all the major *journées* of the Revolution in the capital, there was only one in which the price or supply of food appears to have played no part at all. That was the demonstration of July 17th 1791, when Parisians gathered on the *Champ de Mars* to sign a petition calling for the abdication of the King.

Adapted from G RUDÉ, *The Crowd in History*, 1964

Source B Robespierre certainly had a reputation as the champion of popular sovereignty and the liberties of the people and he *was* popular with the Crowd. In the elections to the Convention he came top of the Paris list, gaining more votes than either Danton or Marat. For many *sans-culottes*, Robespierre was the sincere
5 democrat who opposed the distinction between 'active' and 'passive' citizens. He thought that deputies and officials should be both accountable for their actions and subject to scrutiny by the Crowd. Yet when he was in office he did nothing to promote social and democratic policies himself. In fact, in 1794, he was in favour of relaxing the law of the General Maximum which the Crowd had
10 wanted to fix the price of bread and other essential goods.

Adapted from D TOWNSON, *France in Revolution*, 1990

Source C

Part of a speech given by Robespierre in 1794 about 'The Republic of Virtue' in which he talks about law and justice, equality, well-being and prosperity for all. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source B** about Robespierre's reputation as a revolutionary. *(10 marks)*

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

How useful is **Source C** as evidence about Robespierre's aims in government? *(10 marks)*

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

'The radicalisation of the Crowd in the years 1789 to 1794 owed more to Robespierre and political clubs than to demands for bread.'
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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