



A-level HISTORY

Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682–1796

Paper 1E

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **1E**.
- 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 other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Extract A

Catherine, familiar with the Enlightenment belief in the Rights of Man, was intellectually opposed to serfdom. While still a grand duchess, she had suggested a way to reform and eventually abolish the institution, although it might take a hundred years to accomplish. The crux of the plan was that every time an estate was sold, all serfs on the estate should be freed. If she accepted the iniquity of serfdom, why did Catherine, on reaching the throne, award thousands of serfs to her supporters? Put in its best light she may have believed that this reversal of her belief was temporary. She had to deal with the immediate situation. The landowning nobility, along with the army and the church, had put her on the throne. She wished to reward them. In Russia in 1762, wealth was measured in serfs, not land. If she was going to reward her supporters granting titles and distributing jewellery, she gave them wealth. Wealth meant serfs.

Adapted from Robert K Massie, **Catherine the Great**, 2012

Extract B

The Legislative Commission opened Catherine's eyes as never before to the immensity, the stupendous variety and diversity, of the Empire that she had planned to reform so rapidly and so fully. Her attempt at codification and reform of the laws proved to be far more complicated than she had imagined while composing the Great Instruction in the privacy of her study. Her enlightened sentiments seemed forgotten when they collided with fundamental issues of the multinational hierarchical society of her giant realm. The problems turned out to be larger than the Empress had anticipated. From the Legislative Commission she reaped abundant publicity at home and abroad, presenting herself as an enlightened practical philosopher-sovereign seated firmly on a brilliant throne. Yet its leisurely progress tried her patience, just as its sporadically acrimonious debates tested her nerves. If the Legislative Commission disappointed, Catherine, must bear some responsibility for its inadequate preparation and confused proceedings.

Adapted from John T Alexander, **Catherine the Great**, 1989

Extract C

Although Pugachev was gone, the discontent remained. Mistrust and hatred rose like a fog between the propertied classes and the under-privileged, between the Empress and those at the bottom of the pile. But Catherine did not care. She could have learned from experience and tried to diminish the people's hostility by applying the principles contained in her Instruction. But she preferred toughness to conciliation. If she had in the past, even very vaguely, considered freeing the serfs, she now recoiled with horror from the idea. What atrocities might these primitive people perpetrate if they were suddenly freed? For the same reason she thought that it would be dangerous at the moment to restrict the nobles' powers over their slave livestock. The nobles and the landlords were the pillars of the Empire. And this was not the moment to reduce taxes either, with famine raging in the provinces devastated by the rebels, and the state coffers empty! Let everything remain as it was. Immobility would be Russia's salvation, at least for the time being.

Adapted from Henri Troyat, **Catherine the Great**, 1993

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to why Catherine the Great did not reform the social structure of Russia.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2 To what extent had Peter the Great succeeded in creating a 'Service State' by 1725?
[25 marks]

0 3 'Peter the Great was a lucky rather than a skilful military leader.'
Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1695 to 1725.
[25 marks]

0 4 'Political instability between 1725 and 1772 showed the limits to the absolutism of the Russian tsars.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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