

# Examiners' Report

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
in History (WHI01) Paper 1A

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## **Principal Examiner Report 2016**

### **iA Level History**

#### **WHI01 1A/1B/1C/1D: International Advanced Subsidiary**

##### **WHI01 1B Russia in Revolution 1881-1917**

WHI01 is a new International Advanced Subsidiary examination that is part of the new iA Level History qualification, and was examined for the first time this summer. WHI01 (unit 1) is a Depth Study with Interpretations, and comprises four options; 1A France in Revolution 1774-99, 1B Russia in Revolution 1881-1917, 1C Germany 1918-45, and 1D Britain 1964-90. The assessment criteria for all the options, and questions are AO1 and AO3, and all the options, and questions are covered by a generic mark scheme, based on Level descriptors.

Although, at this early stage in the life of the qualification, the entry for this unit was quite low, it was encouraging to see that there were entries for all of the four options. Paper 1A had 21 candidates, Paper 1B had 39 candidates, Paper 1C had 85 candidates and Paper 1D had 23 candidates.

This report will have comments on all of the four options and questions, but it is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of this summer's cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in these options.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- Across all of the options, in candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require to varying degrees understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria with which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top, of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question. This was particularly evident in the Germany paper, and particularly the question about the role of Hitler.

- It was noted that a few candidates did not indicate which question they had answered first and which question they had answered second. While this did not mean that their responses were not marked, candidates are expected to indicate which questions they answer.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem given the amount of time candidates actually have.

### **Option 1A France in Revolution 1774-99**

- This paper had the smallest number of candidate entries: 21.
- Question 1 proved to be the most popular, followed by question 3, question 2 and question 4.
- In question 1 many candidates were able to discuss the impact of the Enlightenment as a challenge faced by the ancien regime, and then consider other challenges. The higher scoring answers invariably argued that while the Enlightenment was a challenge, it was not the main challenge, because regime faced other challenges that were more serious and pressing.
- The example below scored a mark just into Level 4. The stated view is considered, other challenges are also considered and judged against the stated view and a judgement is made. Knowledge is deployed but in places it lacks range and depth.

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 indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2   
Question 3  Question 4

(This page is for your second answer) The Ancien Regime during the time of Louis was plagued with issues such as debt and inequality, which led to opposition and ultimately its downfall.

Enlightened Thinkers such as Voltaire spread new <sup>revolutionary</sup> ideas throughout <sup>all three of</sup> France. People began questioning the <sup>state</sup> ends of things and pushing for change. Perhaps the key ~~point~~ idea which was brought about by the Enlightenment was that the Church should have no influence in the governing of a state and that legislation should be passed by the <sup>major</sup> people rather than a monarch or a <sup>minority</sup> ~~smaller group~~.

The belief that religion should ~~have~~ <sup>play</sup> ~~influence~~ <sup>no role in</sup> the running of state ~~affairs~~ <sup>affairs</sup> threatened Louis position because ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~idea~~ <sup>the</sup> of divine rights of kings began to be questioned and there was a shift by the people.



(This page is for your second answer) towards the idea of a constitutional monarch or even a republic, a system where all people had an impact.

However, even without the new enlightened ideologies circulating around France, there was already a ~~growing~~ growing resentment towards the ~~Monarchy~~ Ancien Regime because of the distinct lack of any proactive legislation or reform passed by Louis XVI, <sup>his ministers</sup> or the Paris Parlement despite facing <sup>an</sup> economic crisis which Louis had ~~caused~~ <sup>caused</sup> upon himself by <sup>choosing</sup> ~~taking~~ <sup>take</sup> part in both the Seven years war and the American revolutionary wars. This obviously led to issues within France itself due to inflation, but Louis refused to alter the ~~system~~ <sup>Regime</sup> through his rights as a monarch. Instead he left reform up to a biased voting system which was heavily in favour of the 1st and 2nd Estates.

Clearly the 3rd Estate, and the Bourgeoisie in particular - as they were most affected by the Enlightened ideas - were eager for reform however the other 2 Estates could easily refuse any ~~non violent~~ calls for reform.



(This page is for your second answer) due to the <sup>baised</sup> system of voting by ~~first~~ order rather than by head allowed the 1st and 2nd Estate to win with a 2 to 1 vote. This clearly shows that there was an intrinsic weakness to the structure of the regime, with power heavily skewed towards the minority rather than the majority, which the ruler had no plans of changing.

It could be argued that had the people of France not been exposed to a new system of beliefs that the ~~the~~ Ancien Regime may have still stood. However, Louis himself exposed the French people to a democratic system of government in America. ~~By arguing that the Enlightenment~~ However, upon returning from America there were no calls for a new democratic system and people were content with the way things were. Therefore new ideas cannot be considered the primary reason the regime faced so many challenges.

There is a possibility that ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~face~~ problems arose from the failure of Louis to take responsibility and proactively ~~to~~ change anything.



(This page is for your second answer) for the benefit of France. This coupled with any suggestion of a change to the system <sup>pre-existing by the 17th & 18th C</sup> immediately put down by the 1st and 2nd. It can therefore be argued that for this reason people chose to adopt the 'Enlightened' way of thinking, not the contrary.

- In question 2 candidates were able to discuss the role of the sans-culottes, but many described their role rather than analysing and evaluating whether or not they were the main driving force of the revolution.
- The example below scored a mark at the top of Level 1. It is very descriptive, repetitious and not fully focused on the question.

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 indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2   
Question 3  Question 4

(This page is for your first answer) The sans-culottes were the servants of French Kingdom, they were the mainly people suffering the bread price increase due the many bad harvests. But they are no peasants, so they <sup>also</sup> have a hard working day <sup>but not farming</sup> and not enough food but also they were encouraged by the enlightenment era to be unsatisfied by the circumstances. The sans-culottes saw the royal court living in a huge luxury and of course felt the difference. They felt uncomfortable with the new army's coming to Paris and Versailles and what should a thinking man do. The sans-culottes at the beginning - storming of the Bastille - weren't yet called the sans-culottes, they just were the citizen of Paris who first started to be active to oppose the royals due the storming of the Bastille in July 1789. Once they had success why should they stop to manipulate the politics in Paris. The sans-culottes stormed the Tuileries defended by national guard and leaded by Lafayette - an enlightenment thinker but wasn't against royals.

(This page is for your first answer) he wanted a constitutional monarchy - to put force on the king. But this ~~all~~ happened after the days when the women of Paris went to Versailles due to the high bread prices and the army there. Then they insisted to bring the king to Paris to have him more under control. This had done the feminine part of Paris. And don't forget the Fête days in a provincial town, also no sans-culottes.

Ok, the sans-culottes started to oppose with unrest ~~within~~ within Paris hoping to change the poor circumstances:

- high taxes
- taxes on everything, even salt a necessary good to life
- high bread prices
- long working day
- forbidden books eg books of Voltaire
- no opportunity to give the king some needed advice

If this all had not build up with ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> impertinence all the years before, even before Louis XVI it never would be

(This page is for your first answer) sans-culottes become so strong with their will and interests. But now they were strong and the important thing: a leader to encourage everyone and tell where they should be when, came up with the President of the Girondins. He encouraged the sans-culottes to be at the Tuileries at the day of the fight between them and the national guard and after the King sought for help at the National Assembly, that triggered his imprisonment and after all Robespierres warrant of the death of citizen Louis Bourbon. Then the king was dead and Robespierre needed some support for his terror regime but this ~~lies~~ outside the time from 1789 to 1792

The nobles were quiet confident with their positions, luxur, money ... ~~on~~ Why should they drive force against the king? Their strength for their lifestyle! The ~~peasants~~ only some had difference minds formed with the enlightenment thoughts and divided



(This page is for your first answer)

power for the King encouraged by the British way of ruling the UK and the American revolution was also

But these nobles were the thinkers of the clubs political circles but no force against the King.

The peasants at the countryside would be too weak to and would not reach much there to change any changes for taxes, feudalism...

The sans-culottes in Paris, not the poorest people within and same ideas encouraged by the political circles or own thoughts. were

As already said, they stormed the Bastille, they killed almost whole National guard, they had the force within Paris, killing, destroying and living. Including politics thoughts and encourage and own interests into their life. That all shows the main force within Paris, French revolution and maintaining it between 1789-92

- In question 3 candidates were able to discuss the role of Robespierre in the Terror and consider other factors, like the wars, as reasons for the Terror.
- In question 4 (which was the least popular) candidates were well versed in the role of Napoleon and other factors. However, there was a tendency to describe a lot of what Napoleon did rather than clearly analyse and evaluate his actual role in the coup.

