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Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Subsidiary

In History (WHI01) Paper 1A

Depth Study with Interpretations

France in Revolution, 1774-99

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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 the structure of the answer to 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 by 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.
- 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.

Option 1A France in Revolution 1774-99

- Question 1 proved popular, followed by question 2, question 3 and question 4.
- In question 1 many candidates were able to consider whether the revolt of the aristocracy rather than the Tennis Court Oath marked the true onset of the revolution by comparing the impact of both and then reaching a judgement.
- In question 2 candidates were able to discuss the actions of the King in relation to the fall of the monarchy, but some wrote extensively about the reasons for the revolution rather than the fall of the monarchy.
- In question 3 candidates were able to discuss the impact of counter-revolutionary uprisings and their relationship to the Terror, other factors were also considered when making a judgement.
- In question 4 (which was the least popular) candidates were able to consider some of the principles of the revolution and decide if Napoleon established his Consulship based upon them, however, some used the question as a means to describe Napoleon's route to power.
- The example below achieved a high mark in Level three. It showed understanding of the issue, had knowledge but lacked range and depth in places and there was an attempt to establish criteria for judgement.

The Consulship was the government that was created after the fall of the Directory in 1799. It was established for many reasons, and one of them was that Napoleon, working along with Abbe Sieyes, believed the Directory wasn't doing enough and they wanted to overthrow it to maintain the principles of the Revolution. Another reason for the creation of the ~~Consulship~~ Consulship was the Coups of Fructidor and Floreal that the Directory did, which caused opposition and led to the people wanting a new government. Moreover, the Directory's new constitution was ineffective and the people of France disliked it for many reasons, thus they wished for a new Constitution to be created under a new government. Lastly, the Directory was involved in the War of the First and Second Coalition which, along with conscription, made it very unpopular, thus people wanted a new body to rule that would end the war. I believe that ~~the~~ Napoleon, along with Abbe Sieyes, were the main reason for the creation of the Consulship because they were the first to take action to overthrow the

Directory and without their Coup the Directory wouldn't have fallen as effectively.

To begin with, Napoleon was a very successful general that was very popular since he won a lot of battles during the war of the First Coalition. Along with Abbe Sieyes, they believed that the Directory wasn't ruling the country effectively and was unsuccessful in maintaining the values of the Revolution. Thus, they had a plan to overthrow the Directory from within after Sieyes became a director, since ~~they~~ they believed that by establishing a new government the Revolution would maintain its principles better. To achieve this aim they planned the Coup of Brumaire, where ~~Napoleon~~ ~~attached~~ Sieyes spread rumours about a Jacobin plot being formed in the Council of the 500, and when the ~~the~~ Directory was stormed by the National Guard he was the first to resign. This was successful because with the Coup they managed to overthrow the Directory and begin the creation of the Consolship. Their action was very important since they were the first people to actively try and destroy the Directory and tried to achieve their aims by revolting.

Another reason why the Consolship was established was because the Directory did many mistakes during its leadership and undermined its position, resulting in its unpopularity. For example, after the elections of 1797

(This page is for your second answer) where the royalists won a lot of the seats, the Directory carried out the Coup of Fuctidor and cancelled the elections, removing 177 royalist deputies from their seats. This caused opposition by the royalists because they felt like they couldn't be part of the government anymore, and they now wanted a new leading body that would allow them to be in the government. Moreover, the Directory also wanted to eliminate the power of the Jacobins thus it did the Coup of Floreal in 1798, and cancelled elections again to remove Jacobin deputies. These two Coups showed that the Directory made a mockery of Democracy, and the people wished for a new government that wouldn't act despotically and would preserve the values of the Revolution more effectively.

Another mistake of the Directory that made it very unpopular was the Constitution. Poor people disliked it because in order to be an elector or a deputy you had to pay a large amount of money in taxes, thus Democracy was qualified and only wealthy people could participate. This caused opposition because the Directory was supposed to be democratic and preserve the values of the Revolution that everyone was equal, and if this wasn't happening then people started asking for a new government. Moreover, the Decree of two-thirds created opposition from both

(This page is for your second answer) the left and the right, because it said that two-thirds of the ~~Constituents~~ Deputies needed to previously be in the National Convention. The Jacobins and royalists despised this rule because they weren't members of the Convention at the time, thus they wanted to have a new government that would involve them as well. This was therefore one of the reasons why the Councilship was created, because ~~the~~ people started growing more and more unsatisfied with the Directory.

Lastly, another reason why the Directory was unpopular was because it carried out the War of the First Coalition. This created economic problems for France, because the incomes of war were spent on buying equipment for the army, and hardly any was going back to the Directory. Moreover, the Directory was trapped in a vicious ~~and~~ cycle because it constantly needed ~~the~~ more money for the army, thus ~~the~~ new territories needed to be captured all the time. Lastly, the ~~the~~ law of conscription faced large opposition, because men from ages 20 to 25 were required to join the army for a 5-year period. Men despised this so much that some even cut their thumbs or knocked off their teeth so they were unable to go to war. The fact that the Directory was so involved in the war made

(This page is for your second answer) it unpopular to the public and call for a new government that would end war started to emerge. This made the establishment of the Consularship easier since people were ready for a change and didn't oppose the fall of the Directory.

To conclude, in my opinion the most important reason for the creation of the Consularship was Napoleon's desire to preserve the principles of the revolution. This is because he, along with Abbe Sieyes, were the only ones that were so passionate about their aims to actually take action and overthrow the Directory. All the other members of the society, like the Jacobins and the Royalists, were unhappy with the Directory but never actually took important action to establish a new government themselves and go against the existing government. Consequently, Napoleon and Abbe Sieyes were the most important reason since without the Coup of Brumaire and Napoleon's strong leadership skills as a general, the Consularship wouldn't have been created with such an effective way.