



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level
In History(WHIO1) Paper 1A

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WHI01 1A : France in Revolution, 1774-99

The entry for this paper was slightly increased compared to previous series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was reasonably well answered. Many candidates were knowledgeable in relation to the impact of the American Revolution in relation to the onset of the revolution, and then considered other factors that contributed towards it, e.g. the Enlightenment, taxation, the economy and poor harvests. Those that concentrated on the issue in the question and made a criteria based judgement scored highly.

Question 2

This question was popular, but some candidates saw the question as an opportunity to put down everything they knew about the reforms of the National Assembly. Others focused on the comparison in the question and those that used criteria in their judgement scored the highest.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. The issue in the question was discussed and supported with precise knowledge and other causes of the Terror were also considered. Many judged that while the Vendée revolt was important, military defeats, the role of Robespierre and the sans-culottes also played their part and, indeed, were more important.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates gave very generalised answers with limited knowledge. There were also some answers that went to 1799, when the question clearly stated 1798. Some candidates were more knowledgeable about the internal threats and not so on the external threats, which meant many answers were unbalanced.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.
- When judgments are made they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.