

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 1**

**HS1C**

**Alternative C Absolutist States in Europe, 1640–1725**

Friday 11 January 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or 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 HS1C.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- 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 each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

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

**Source A** Adapted from the diary of John Evelyn, an English writer, 1685

3 November 1685: the French Tyrant, Louis XIV, has revoked the Edict of Nantes without any cause, and all of a sudden has started to demolish all Protestant churches and to send Protestants to the galleys. Soldiers are being sent to force Protestants to go to the Catholic Mass. There are already about 100 000

- 5 Huguenots that have fled abroad. France is now almost deserted and the French Tyrant's income is very much reduced. Everybody in France hates what has been done.

**Source B** Between 1661 and 1679 Huguenots were not physically persecuted but were made to feel uncomfortable. After 1679 Louis XIV chose more aggressive tactics. His objectives remained the same – the ending of heresy and a unified church and state. The king, his clergy and Madame de Maintenon now believed they had the

- 5 Huguenots on the run. Mild policies might finish off Protestantism within 100 years, but Louis and his advisers wanted to serve 'the interests of heaven' more rapidly.

Adapted from R WILKINSON, *Louis XIV, France and Europe 1661–1715*, 2005

**Source C**

A brief text extract from D H PENNINGTON, *Europe in the Seventeenth Century*, Longman, 1990, pp 514-515, discussing Louis XIV's treatment of the Huguenots - not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

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

Explain briefly the importance of 'the Edict of Nantes' (line 1) in the context of the Huguenots in France before 1685. (3 marks)

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

Explain how the views in **Source B** differ from the views put forward in **Source C** about the reasons why Louis XIV adopted a more aggressive policy towards the Huguenots. (7 marks)

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

Explain the importance of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in relation to other factors, in explaining the impact of Louis XIV's Huguenot policies. (15 marks)

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**EITHER    Brandenburg-Prussia 1640–1688**

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2** Read the following source and then answer the questions that follow.

A brief text extract from M SHENNAN, *The Rise of Brandenburg Prussia*, Routledge, 1994, p 30, discussing Frederick William's military role - not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'Fehrbellin' in the context of Frederick William's foreign policy. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Frederick William was keen to reform his military forces. (7 marks)
- (c) 'It was Frederick William's cunning use of foreign alliances that explains his success in foreign policy in the years 1640 to 1688.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

- OR        3** Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

The excise system suited Frederick William because of his reluctance to attack the economic interests of the Junkers, but it was hardly an ideal way to extract most revenues from his eastern territories.

Adapted from D MCKAY, *The Great Elector*, 2001

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'the excise system' in the context of Frederick William's financial reforms. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why there was opposition to Frederick William's efforts to strengthen royal finances. (7 marks)
- (c) 'Frederick William's most significant achievement in domestic affairs was the strengthening of royal finances.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**OR            Russia 1690–1725**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

**4** Read the following source and then answer the questions that follow.

Peter decided on a second, even more costly, campaign against Azov in 1696. He also showed himself willing to learn from his mistakes.

Adapted from J SWIFT, *Peter the Great*, 2000

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘Azov’ in the context of Peter the Great’s military campaigns of the 1690s. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter decided to go to war with Sweden in 1700. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘Up to 1709 Peter the Great’s foreign policy was a failure; after 1709 it was a success.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

**OR            5** Read the following source and then answer the questions that follow.

Of all the new taxes introduced under Peter, one was far greater than all the others in its lasting social effects. This was the poll tax or ‘soul tax’.

Adapted from M S ANDERSON, *Peter the Great*, 1995

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘the poll tax’ in the context of Peter’s efforts to increase state income. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Peter wanted to improve Russia’s economy. (7 marks)
- (c) ‘The most important factor limiting the success of Peter’s economic reforms was the conservatism of the Russian people.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. (15 marks)

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Question 2: M SHENNAN, *The Rise of Brandenburg Prussia*, Routledge, 1994.

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