

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2F The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715

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Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2F.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a statement, 'Reasons for War', addressed to Emperor Leopold, issued by Louis XIV, 24 September 1688. Louis XIV's army crossed the River Rhine the next day.

The King of France has always desired tranquility. There are those who hope to find advantage by stirring up new troubles and question the sincerity of His Majesty's intentions and it is upon them alone that the blame for war is to be laid. The King of France is set, of necessity, to besiege Philipsburg, as this is a place which renders to his enemies an easy entrance into France. He also sees fit to possess himself of Kaiserslautern in the Palatinate, until the title of Elector Palatine has been restored to Madame, his sister-in-law, as belongs to her by succession. To ensure all misunderstandings between the King of France and the Empire are taken away, a definitive treaty of peace is to be made upon the same articles as those of the truce concluded and signed at Ratisbon, 15 August 1684. This makes provision that His Majesty shall not be troubled, on occasion of the new fortifications he has been obliged to make for the security of his lands.

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**Source B**

From a letter to Louvois from the marquis de Chamlay, 27 October 1688. Chamlay was a diplomat and general and a close ally of Louvois, the Minister for War.

The speed of the King's recent conquests should open the eyes of the Emperor and the whole Empire, make them aware of the overwhelming difficulties in waging war against the King of France, and lead them to accept the proposals for peace that the King made in his September statement. I believe the Emperor would accept his duty and want to please His Majesty, for fear of suddenly finding himself overwhelmed with the destruction of more territory. However, whilst we are talking about concluding a treaty, which would please the Germans, we must also plan the demolition of several towns which are important to destroy, so that they can never be used in another war. These places include Speyer, Oppenheim and Kaiserslautern in the Palatinate. If peace is made, it will be the best solution for France and the rest of Europe; if the war continues, we will leave French soldiers in these towns over the winter ready to destroy their defences.

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**Source C**

From an address made to William III of England by the English parliamentary committee for the French War, 19 April 1689. England joined the war on France in May 1689.

The French King, in pursuit of his usual methods of seizing any opportunity that might increase his power, has now carried on an actual war in Ireland, sending a great number of officers with money, arms and ammunition. Under the pretence of assisting the former King James, the French King has taken the government of affairs in Ireland into his own hands. He has already begun to use the same cruelties and violence upon Your Majesty's subjects, as he has lately practised in his own dominions, and in all other places. If Your Majesty shall think fit to enter into a war against France, parliament will give you assistance. A stop must be put to that growing greatness of the French King, which threatens all of Christendom with no less than slavery. The incredible quantity of innocent blood shed must be revenged, his oppressed neighbours restored to their just rights and possessions. Your Majesty's alliances and the Treaty of Nijmegen must be upheld.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the causes of tension in Europe in the years 1688/89.

**[30 marks]****Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'Colbert's financial and economic reforms, in the years 1665 to 1672, were successful.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 3** 'It was desire for glory which led Louis XIV to go to war with the Dutch Republic in 1672.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 4** To what extent did Louis XIV's decision to revoke the Edict of Nantes weaken France at home and abroad, in the years 1685 to 1695?

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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