

AS HISTORY

The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1685

Paper 2F

Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **2F**.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From Primi Visconti's 'Memoires'. He was an Italian present at the French court in the 1670s and 1680s.

In addition, he [the King] has destroyed the chieftains and their factions and abolished the practice of patronage. The least positions at court and in the kingdom are now at his disposal. There are no intermediaries. If you want something, you have to go directly to him and not to anybody else. The King wants his ministers to bring all requests before the council because he wants the government to function in perfect harmony. For war, Louvois; for finance it is Colbert; for foreign affairs, Pomponne. The King has an extraordinary memory and he expects that every appeal, no matter what it is, will be reported to him so that he can issue a pardon or do justice. A simple glance from the King that they are imprecise is a reproach that leaves the ministers devastated.

Source B

From the memoirs of the duc de Saint-Simon, a noble of the sword, written in the 1740s based on notes he had made during his time at Louis' court in the early eighteenth century.

One might have thought that the King would have liked a great nobility, far from this. He had an aversion to nobles of the sword and preferred nobles of the robe, as his ministers. He feared noble birth as much as he feared intellect; and if these two qualifications were united in one person, and he knew it, it was all over with that person. It is, therefore, with great reason that one ought to deplore with tears of sorrow, an education solely arranged to smother the heart and mind of this king. Also the cruel policy of his ministers, who hemmed him in, and, for their own power and fortune, so intoxicated him with ideas of his authority and glory that they corrupted him for their own gain.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why Louis XIV wanted to lessen the power of the nobility?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

EITHER

0 2

‘Colbert’s economic and financial reforms were a complete success.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

OR

0 3

‘Reducing Habsburg power in Europe best explains Louis XIV’s actions in foreign policy in the years 1672 to 1685.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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