

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y213/01 Summer 2022 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

To support student revision, advance information was published about the focus of exams for Summer 2022 assessments. Advance information was available for most GCSE, AS and A Level subjects, Core Maths, FSMQ, and Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies. You can find more information on our [website](#).

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Paper Y213/01 series overview

Y213 is one of twenty four units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about one hundred years through a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay and candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short essay question (a), candidates need to consider the significance or importance both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short-answer essay • reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important • linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question • in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth • gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way • produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response • were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question. • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Key point – be sure of dates in the question

Candidates need to be sure of dates, whether they are used in the question or not, so that factors in (a) questions can be accurately placed and assessed.

Question 1 (a)

- 1 (a) Which of the following was of greater significance for Napoleon's domination of Europe?
- (i) The Battle of Ulm
 - (ii) The Battle of Austerlitz

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Better responses to Question 1(a) appreciated that the two battles came in succession in the War of the Third Coalition and that Austerlitz was therefore the decisive battle, forcing Austria into a humiliating peace. The obvious difficulty some candidates had was in placing the Battle of Ulm correctly and sometimes mistaking the enemies of Napoleon in the Third Coalition with those in the Fourth Coalition a year later. Frequently, this concerned Prussia, not a member of the Third Coalition.

Exemplar 1 is a solid Level 5 response with accurate detail and a sound judgement, although it could offer more detail in terms of the outcome of this war.

Key point – know the detail

Candidates need to be sure of the Napoleonic coalition wars and which powers were fighting in which war.

Exemplar 1

	<p>The Battles of Ulm and Austerlitz both played significant roles in Napoleon's domination of Europe, though the Battle of Austerlitz was more significant. The Battle of Ulm in 1805 was significant in demonstrating Napoleon's superior military tactics and his ability to exploit his enemies' weaknesses. His continued methods of dividing his army into corps could up to 2000 men allowed them to move much faster than their opponents anticipated and successfully off engage with the Austrians before Russia was able to join them. This strategic success that left Napoleon able to seize Vienna is significant for Napoleon's domination of Europe was in that the a decisive the victory over the Austrians in this way and the occupation of a major city like Vienna was a significant blow to the coalition forces and it allowed Napoleon to further spread his revolutionary ideals. However, the significance \rightarrow somewhat limited by the fact that the victory was relatively short term and conflict continued meaning the success did not fall have a long term impact.</p>
	<p>The battle of Austerlitz in 1805 was very significant for Napoleon's domination of Europe. It again allowed Napoleon to exploit his opponents' weakness and helped to demonstrate very cunning tactics and methods of</p>

combat. By feigning weakness in his right flank in a letter to the Russians, leading them to focus their attacks there, Napoleon was able to sneak behind the Russian army and surprise counter-attack them there, gaining the higher ground. This battle was especially significant as it helped directly to lead to the end of the War of the Third Coalition with a victory for Napoleon, and further establishing him as an extremely strong military power and at this point seemed almost unbeatable.

In conclusion, the Battle of Austerlitz was of greater significance than the Battle of Ulm for Napoleon's domination of Europe. While both battles helped to demonstrate Napoleon's impressive military tactics and were important successes, the Battle of Austerlitz was more significant in its defeat of Russia, a very significant power and in its role in ending the War of the Third Coalition, making it more significant in his domination of Europe.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* Assess the reasons for the Terror.

[20]

There was a wide variety of responses to this question about the French revolution. Better responses appreciated more exactly when the Terror occurred with isolated anarchic events in August-September 1792 preceding the more famous organised Terror of 1793-4. Explaining the role of the war, the impact of internal revolts, the militancy of the sans-culottes and the determination of the Montagnard/Jacobin leadership to use the Terror to construct a 'republic of virtue' were common features of effective responses.

Less successful were responses that diverted into the period of the revolution before the Terror was properly established. This was not because the material could not be made partially relevant but because writing too much about 1791, and earlier, came at the expense of discussing the essential period of the Terror in 1793-4. The other difficulty encountered was a lack of precision; events move very quickly in 1792-4. Confusing the order of events and exaggerating or distorting the role of Robespierre made some responses less convincing.

Exemplar 2 is sound in terms of core understanding but does not develop the line of reasoning as effectively by skating over significant detail. It was marked in Level 4.

Key point – chronology

Questions on The Terror require a clear grasp of chronology and an appreciation of how isolated instances of mass violence (August and September 1792) were succeeded by an organised, increasingly centralised campaign of repression.

Exemplar 2

1	b	<p>The Terror was created by Robespierre in order to to reduce the threat of counter revolutionaries. By At this time people were extremely worried about royalists at overthrowing the revolution. However, factors like the September Massacres, the convention, fall of the Girondins and the increasing popularity of Robespierre encouraged him to enforce the Terror across France.</p>
		<p>The September Massacres occurred after Prussia and Austria issued the Pillnitz Declaration, which threatened military intervention in favour of the king. Out of fear of a counter revolution the Paris Commune arrested counter suspected counter revolutionaries. This threat ^{was} increased as it was rumoured that the prisoners would break out and hand over Paris to Prussia. Prussia then managed to take Verdun, which made the rumours of counter revolution reality. For this reason the Paris Commune carried out the September Massacres killing 1,300 prisoners. Even Even though killing counter revolutionaries reduced the support that the Prussian army had in Russia, it showed Robespierre</p>

that the French army was not strong enough to fight off foreign interventions. Therefore, Robespierre needed to use the Terror to ~~to~~ install fear into the army in order to motivate them. ✓

In addition, the Girondins showed a lot of support for ~~the~~ the counter revolution, which was expected considering they were the more conservative section in the assembly. ~~they were~~ They insisted that the execution of the king should go to election. This created sympathy for the king, which angered large sections of society creating more radical groups. This anger within radical groups was motivation for the Terror and showed Robespierre that ~~there was~~ the people of the revolution wanted to eradicate royalists. This caused ~~the~~ guards to be ordered to stand outside the Convention and arrest Girondins leading to the execution of 27 Girondins. Due to this the king and Marie Antoinette were subsequently executed in 1793. ✓

The ~~law~~ changes in the Convention also played a large role in the start of the Terror. this is because more radical people

were put in councils, so their beliefs were more easily enforced as they were legitimate. In addition, the franchise was widened ~~to~~ so everyone in employment ~~could~~ could vote ~~which was a~~ apart from women, which was a huge change considering before 3 million men ~~could~~ could not vote. This gave power the the lower classes who were passionate about the ~~the~~ revolution and therefore the Terror as well. The new revolutionary ~~calendar~~ calendar was the most significant ~~as~~ starting at year 1 showed a ~~strong~~ desire ~~for~~ to break from the past, showing that people were in favour of ~~the~~ a new form of enforcement.

The popularity of Robespierre was a reason for the Terror as well, because it gave him ~~the~~ the confidence he needed to carry out the Terror. He was admired by many as he did ~~not~~ desire personal wealth, he just wanted to further the revolution for the people. Also he openly spoke of the purity of the ideals of the revolution, which increased the support for the revolution. He showed no hesitation to use violence for the sake of the revolution, which presented

him as a strong leader. ~~At~~ This popularity showed people believed in him and that the Terror was legitimate as he had the support of the majority.

Overall, the ~~opposite~~ ~~of~~ opposition to the overthrow of the monarchy presented by the Girondins ~~and~~ and the sympathy for the king that it created, showed the need for a ~~more~~ more radical way of eradicating opposition by the Terror. ~~But~~ But, the increasing popularity of Robespierre was the most important reason for the Terror because it reassured him that he had the support of the people so could easily enforce the Terror without opposition to him. For this reason the Terror saw the ~~more~~ execution of the king, ~~including~~ 22 Girondins ~~and~~, any colleagues who showed reservations, as well as thousands of innocent people.

Question 2 (a)

2 (a) Which was a greater threat to the Convention?

(i) The uprising of the Germinal

(ii) The uprising of the Prairial

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

This question was very much a minority choice and some candidates did well but for others a lack of knowledge was in evidence. Some confused one or other of the Germinal and Prairial risings with the later, royalist, Vendemiaire rising.

Successful candidates made the logical case for the Prairial rising posing much the greater threat to the Convention and resulting in a crackdown that effectively put an end to the autonomous sans-culottes movement.

Exemplar 3, apart from a couple of early slips, using 'peasants', not 'sans-culottes' and 'Directory' not 'Convention' (corrected later in the response), has the essentials right in explaining the scale and nature of the threat posed by the two risings.

Key point – put events in context

Placing events accurately in context is the key to successful assessment.

Exemplar 3

2a	In terms of threats
	<p> Germinal uprising was a threat to the convention. This is due to the fact that with high starvation less food being produced, many people were infuriated as nothing was being done. The peasants took into their own accounts and protested against the convention. They demanded bread, increase their wages and lower the food prices. However, the Directory heavily suppressed the uprising meaning that they had not been able to achieve their main aims. The failure of the Germinal uprising meant that famine, poor wages and high food prices were still a massive problem. So, in terms of threats to the convention they were a minor threat as the convention managed to stop the uprising and refuse their demands. However this failure allowed another uprising to occur. </p>
	<p> The insurrection meant that due to the failure of the Germinal uprising their problems continued and they could not have let it go. The French peasants were getting desperate to the point where they had to steal food before it went to grain. This uprising also had major events such as armed women, workers, some national guards and some nation monarchs rushed into the convention to demand for bread. The convention gunners took some sympathy and joined the mob where they aimed their guns at the convention. This pure chaos and violence allowed the mob to convince the convention to sign a petition for their demands where they </p>

had to agree on what they wanted. The local national guards eventually came and cleared out the hall where they arrested and executed Sans culotte leaders, Montagnards who took part and arrested other people. The national guards managed to suppress the chaos and where the remaining people who were not arrested left and hid in Paris with their guns. Overall this uprising only had 1 casualty which was a son deputy of the convention.

In conclusion, in terms of greater threat the prairial was much more dangerous and a threat towards the ~~the~~ convention as it was more violent and caused more chaos to the point where the national guards had to come and arrest as well as execute those who were involved. The Germinal uprising however was easily suppressed and had ~~more~~ less of a success as unlike prairial these demands were not heard and was neglected and due to its failure as a threat another uprising was set out which was essentially more effective than in gaining their demands through the high threat they proposed towards the convention.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'The most important reason for the failure of the Directory was its reliance upon the army.'
How far do you agree? **[20]**

Many responses were well focused. The best of them appreciated both the Directory's reliance on the army to maintain the regime against threats from the left and the right and the fact that the army was central to the coup of Brumaire which ultimately overthrew the Directory. Useful detail was employed to explain the nature of the royalist and neo-Jacobin threats, as well as the Directory's financial difficulties. The army's (Napoleon's) independence in foreign policy was also used effectively.

Less successful responses muddled details, even in some cases conflating the Directory's rule with that of the Committee's during the Terror.

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