

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY

HS1C

Unit 1

Alternative C: Absolutist States in Europe, 1640–1725

Monday 2 June 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 black ink or black 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.

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

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

Source A By 1701 the European powers were increasingly worried by Louis XIV's pursuit of glory. They united in the Grand Alliance, and the War of Spanish Succession swept across Europe. Louis now had no great generals; his army was run down from previous wars, and France's finances were very weak.

Adapted from P A HOLMES, *Louis XIV*, 1983

Source B

A brief text extract adapted from J A LYNN, *The French Wars, 1667-1714*, 2002, describing how Louis XIV seized towns and lands during the late seventeenth century. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Source C In September 1681, French expansion provoked widespread alarm when Louis XIV and 30 000 troops seized Strasbourg. This was a free city of the Empire to which France could lay no claim whatsoever. Louis XIV rode into the conquered city in a golden coach pulled by eight horses. He pleased Catholic opinion by insisting that Protestant worship in the cathedral should cease.

5

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

Source D Louis XIV suffered the consequences of having alienated other countries from which he increasingly faced organised opposition. After 1685 the Protestant states had a desire to retaliate for the suffering of their fellow Protestants.

Adapted from D J STURDY, *Louis XIV*, 1998

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

Explain briefly the importance of 'pursuit of glory' (lines 1 and 2) in the context of Louis XIV's foreign policy aims. (3 marks)

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

Explain how **Source B** differs from the views put forward in **Source C** about the motives of Louis XIV in foreign policy in the years 1679 to 1684. (7 marks)

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

Explain the importance of Louis XIV's over-confidence, in relation to other factors, in explaining the failure of French foreign policy in the years 1679 to 1715. (15 marks)

EITHER Brandenburg-Prussia 1640–1688

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

2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from S FAY and K EPSTEIN, *The Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia*, 1964, stating how a more unified administration was built by the Great Elector. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what was meant by ‘a more unified administration’ in the context of Frederick William’s administrative aims. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Frederick William felt the need to reform the economy and finances of his territories. *(7 marks)*
- (c) ‘The establishment of a standing army was the most important of Frederick William’s domestic policies in the years 1640 to 1688.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(15 marks)*

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

A brief text extract adapted from M SHENNAN, *The Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia*, 1995, stating that Frederick William could not get what he wanted even after the terms of the Peace of Westphalia had been broken. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by ‘the terms of Westphalia’ in the context of Frederick William’s foreign policy. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Frederick William considered the gaining of foreign alliances important to his foreign policy. *(7 marks)*
- (c) ‘The increase in his personal prestige was the main achievement of Frederick William’s foreign policy.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(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 which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from L HUGHES, *Russian in the age of Peter the Great*, 1998, stating that the state was the main benefactor of the 'Table of Ranks'. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'Table of Ranks' in the context of Peter the Great's domestic reforms. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great wanted to reform the economy and the finances of Russia. *(7 marks)*
- (c) 'In his domestic policies, Peter's greatest achievement was reform of the Church.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement. *(15 marks)*

5 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from R K MASSIE, *Peter the Great*, 2001, stating that Peter realised his mistakes, in relation to Pruth, were due to his lack of caution. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'the Pruth disaster' in the context of Peter the Great's foreign policy. *(3 marks)*
- (b) Explain why Peter the Great reformed his armed forces. *(7 marks)*
- (c) 'Victory at the battle of Poltava in 1709 was the most significant event of Peter the Great's foreign policy.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(15 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1 Source B: Text by JOHN A LYNN, From *Essential Histories* #34, *The French Wars 1667–1714*, © Osprey Publishing Ltd, www.ospreypublishing.com.

Source C: R WILKINSON, *Louis XIV, France and Europe 1661–1715*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2005. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

Source D: D J STURDY, *Louis XIV*, Macmillan Press Ltd., 1998. Reproduced by permission of Palgrave Macmillan.

Question 3: M SHENNAN, *The Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia*, Routledge, 1995, Page 18.

Question 4: L HUGHES, *Russia in the Age of Peter the Great*, Yale University Press, 1998. © Yale University Press.

Question 5: R K MASSIE, *Peter the Great*, Phoenix, 2001. Published by Phoenix, an imprint of Weidenfeld & Nicolson, a division of The Orion Publishing Group.