

A-level HISTORY

Component 2H France in Revolution, 1774–1815

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

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 7042/2H.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the recollections of Marshal Macdonald, a Frenchman of Scottish origin who wrote about his life's exploits, for his son. His recollections were published by his granddaughter in 1893.

After advancing into Russia in 1812, I established my headquarters near Dunaburg [now Latvia]. The enemy watched my every movement, but I laid a trap for them, attacked them vigorously, and broke their line. This would have produced much more important results had the Prussian General Yorck obeyed my reiterated orders to attack the rear of the Russians. I had already observed in his letters a marked increase of coldness on the part of this General, which increased with the misfortunes of the Grand Army. On the retreat, the Emperor, having succeeded in forcing the passage of the Beresina, and reopening communications with Wilna [Vilnius], departed for Paris, leaving the command to Murat, King of Naples. This was a great misfortune, for Murat, despite his reputation for bravery, was really only fit to lead a cavalry-charge. He hoped to be able to rest and reorganise the remnants of the army at Wilna, but the Russians dislodged him. The last remains of that immense army perished there.

Source B

From the diary, published posthumously, of English aristocrat Charles Greville. This entry of 1830 gives the views of Marshal Marmont, who had not fought in Russia. Marmont abandoned Napoleon in 1815.

Of Russia, Marmont said that Bonaparte's army was destroyed by the time he got to Moscow, destroyed by famine; that there were two ways of making war, by slow degrees or by rapid movements and reaching places where abundant means of supply and reorganisation were to be found, as Napoleon had done at Vienna and elsewhere, but in Russia supplies were not to be had. Napoleon had, however, pushed on with the same rapidity and destroyed his army. Somebody asked him if Napoleon's generals had not dissuaded him from going to Russia. Marmont said no; they liked it; but Napoleon ought to have stopped at Smolensk, made Poland independent, and levied 50,000 Cossacks, the Polish Cossacks being better than the Russian, who would have kept all his communications clear, and allowed the French army to rest, and then he would have done in two campaigns what he wished to accomplish in one.

Source C

From Napoleon's official '29th bulletin of the Grande Armée', 3 December 1812. This was published in the French newspaper, Le Moniteur, 17 December 1812.

To the 6th of November the weather was fine, and the movement of the army executed with the greatest success. The cold, which began on the 7th, suddenly increased; and on the 14th, 15th, and 16th, the thermometer was sixteen and eighteen degrees below the freezing point. The roads were covered with ice; the cavalry, artillery, and baggage horses, perished every night, not only by hundreds, but by thousands. This army, so fine on the 6th, was very different on the 14th, almost without cavalry, artillery and transports. Without cavalry, we could not survey a quarter of a league's distance; without artillery, we could not risk a battle. It was essential to march. This difficulty, joined to the cold, rendered our situation miserable. Those men, whom nature had not sufficiently hardened to be above the chances of fate, lost their cheerfulness and dreamed of catastrophes; those created superior to everything saw fresh glory in the different difficulties to be overcome.

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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 failure of Napoleon's Russian campaign in 1812.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'Between the October Days of 1789 and September 1791, the National Assembly completely dismantled the Ancien Régime.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** How significant was the rising in the Vendée in the radicalisation of the revolution in 1793?

[25 marks]

- 0 4** 'Personal ambition was more important than revolutionary principles in Napoleon's consolidation of power in the years 1799 to 1804.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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