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In History (WHI0) Paper 1A

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Principal Examiner Report 2019 January

IA Level History (1A: France in Revolution 1774-99)

WHI01: International Advanced Subsidiary

It is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of the January cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in this option.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- In candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning the structure of the answer to each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require, to varying degrees, understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria by which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem.

Option 1A France in Revolution 1774-99

- Question 1 proved popular, followed by question 2 and question 3, and question 4.
- In question 1 many candidates were able to consider whether taxation system rather than corruption at court was the main reason for discontent by comparing the impact of both and then reaching a judgement. However, some candidates choose to ignore the issue and listed the reasons for discontent in France.
- In question 2 candidates were able to discuss whether reforms of the Church were more significant than the constitution, but some wrote extensively about all the other reforms and did not address the issue in the question.
- In question 3 some candidates turned the issue round and stated that he was significant in the terror and ignored the stated issue which said he was not. Candidates must give some consideration to the stated issue and not simply ignore it.
- In question 4 (which was the least popular) candidates were able to consider some aspects of the issue.
- The example below achieved a high mark in Level three. It showed understanding of the issue, had knowledge but lacked some range and depth in places and there was an attempt to establish criteria for judgement.

(This page is for your first answer) The taxation system was more significant as a cause of discontent in France, in the years before 1789, than was corruption at court, this could be argued.

Taxation system in France in the years^{of} 1780's was at its worse with the involvement in the American Revolution. From France to support the Americans against the British, a tremendous cost of 1.2 billion ^{lives} was invested in the American Revolution from France's finance departments. France then was forced to establish new harsh taxes which were mainly paid by the Third Estate like the tithe taxes and many more direct and indirect taxes.

The introduction of this taxes wasn't just to make France's economy improve after expenditures on the American Revolution but also for ~~France's~~ ~~the~~ Crown debts issued by the Seven Years War that ~~were~~ ^{were} caused by Louis XVI's grandfather Louis XV and this weren't payed making Louis XVI take the throne and be surrounded with crown debts to pay. The American revolution just worsened this Crown debts by having an increase on France's debts.

(This page is for your first answer) The increase of Crown debt and deficit just ~~made~~ ended up ~~also~~ affecting the nobles and aristocracy and made Third Estate suffer from economic collapse. This made King Louis XVI introduce a new title named 'venal titles' which were payed by any estate to gain more status and power therefore gaining privileges such as being exempt from paying more taxes. This was known as corruption at court with King Louis XVI creating venal titles just to make lots of economically affected people like the Third Estate to buy them therefore benefited from the incomes to be used to pay the crown debts France had.

The taxation system was more significant to the ~~democracy~~ ^{democrat} of France, ~~there~~ ~~was~~ ~~more~~ than corruption at court, this was fairly true as ~~some~~ Third Estate who were the majority of French population were highly affected with the taxation system introduced after the American Revolution, taxes ^{were} imposed ^{on} to the third Estate more rather than to the rich men from the First and Second Estate ^{this} was highly ~~un~~ unpopular, from the Third Estate people's point of view as the high class ^{people} could afford ^{taxes} while they ^{would} not. Also the increase in taxation to the Third Estate made them poor and unable to pay for their main diet to eat which was bread, it was said that

(This page is for your first answer) three quarters of the Third Estates expenditures were on bread, also harvests were curved and this made grain a really scarce source, ~~this made~~ ^{therefore} bread prices increased even more and therefore concluded into big unhappiness from the Third Estate.

Furthermore the proposed land tax made by controller general Turgot produced big criticism from the aristocracy who benefited from such ~~privileges~~ ~~with~~ such taxation made later controller general ~~not~~ ~~learn~~ Archbishop Brienne not learn from Turgot's mistakes and tried to impose again land taxation, but this time the parlements demanded for Estates General as this land tax contradicted the Ancien Regime traditions, the king Louis XVI supported his controller general Brienne and exiled the Paris parlement to the town of Troyes ~~making~~ making the land tax ~~to be~~ a real deal ^{for high class people} and made ~~the~~ king Louis XVI be seen as a despotic tyrant concluding into the revolt of nobles. The land tax proposal by Louis XVI controller general and ~~no~~ revolt of nobles was an example of the huge unhappiness made to nobility ~~made~~ by the introduction of ~~taxation~~ land taxation and resulted into one of the most big ^{new} revolts ~~seen~~ seen in France ~~before~~ before known as the 'revolt of nobles'.

(This page is for your first answer) On the other hand corruption at court was likely the most significant cause of discontent in France before ~~the~~ 1789, corruption at court led to such extremes that venal titles were introduced. This titles bought to earn power and exempt from taxations was seen as massively corruptive from ^{low classes, as} King Louis XVI ~~is~~ could of just abolished such unfair taxation system that was against the poorness of the Third Estate, by this means that power was bought ~~and~~ only ^{by} rich men ^{who} could afford this venal titles, Low classes therefore were angry and rebellious ^{against this} system of buying power.

In conclusion, I think taxation ^{system} ~~was~~ before 1789 was much ~~more~~ more unpopular than it was corruption ~~at~~ of court at France as taxation system largely affected all of the estates in contrast with corruption at court which only affected low class people who weren't able to afford to buy such venal titles with the poorness of their situation, making them extremely unhappy because of this unfairness.

Chosen question number: Question 1 Question 2

Question 3 Question 4

(This page is for your second answer) By 1793 the Terror has been developed systematically with the creation of new assemblies and laws created by the National Convention such as the Committee of Public Safety which dealt with enemies of the revolution and this Committee then imposed radical laws such as the Law of Suspects, Law of Frimaire, Law of Prairial, all of these laws were extremely radical against counter-revolutionaries.

Although Robespierre had a major ~~influence~~ influence in the creation of these laws known as the "machinery of Terror" he wasn't the only one who established them from the Committee as there were many more radical Jacobins like Robespierre members of the Committee such as Saint-Just, Georges Danton and a radical member of the Sans Culottes known as Coustot d'Herbois who could be largely accused of the cause of Terror in France because of their committed atrocities.

Therefore the actions of Robespierre having little significance in the creation of Terror between 1793-94

(This page is for your second answer) could be seen as a potential agreement, as said Robespierre wasn't the only member of the Committee and therefore didn't have much influence on the Terror, an example of the little influence Robespierre had of the emergence of Terror was the Vendée Terror after the uprisings occurred in Vendée in March 1793 remaining rebels builded up an army of 60 000 men this rebels were confronted by radicalist member of the National Convention Jean-Baptiste Carrier he ordered two attacks in which he succeeded to beat both armies of rebels and end all of the rebel army by December 1793 after the success of Carrier he continued into producing genocides and burning of buildings around the Vendée area this atrocities were known as the "hell columns" ~~and~~ Robespierre or the Committee didn't command ^{any} of this atrocities occurred at Vendée at the end of 1793 and it was Carrier's own radical idea. The amount of deaths produced by Carrier on the Vendée region produced terror and fear among the French people and was a step forward towards the development of The Terror.

This ~~therefore~~ ^{therefore} shows an example of the little significance Robespierre's actions did to the development of Terror with no involvement of Robespierre at the Terror of Vendée in spring of 1793.

(This page is for your second answer) Furthermore the federalist revolts that were produced in summer of 1793 was another example of Robespierres little influence on the Terror. With the purge of the Girondins and Jacobin dominance a serious of anti-Jacobin revolts produced by the bourgeoisie who were against this Jacobin dominance occurred and this were known as the federalist revolts. Most impactfull places from the federalist revolts were Lyon, Mersailles and Bourdeaux, representatives on mission who were ~~more~~ radical members from the convention that were sent to fight counter-revolutionaries, were sent to places were federalist revolts took place, the most important ~~of~~ and cahotic from all of this revolts occurred in Lyon, Coulot d'Herboise comitted extremely radical actions with genocides from ~~under~~ the whole ~~the~~ Lyon area against anti-Jacobin ~~populace~~ ~~pop~~ bourgeoisie. The actions of the representatives on mission weren't ordered by Robespierre and instead by the Committee, the federalist revolts and the atrocities made by the representatives on mission created Terror without the influence of Robespierre in many regions, ~~this~~ therefore federalist revolts show it wasn't Robespierre who comitted this actions of genocides among anti Jacobins and instead it was representatives on mission, meaning again that Robespierre had little influence on the Terror between 1793 and 1794.

(This page is for your second answer) On the other hand Robespierre did show significant actions that showed his influence on The Terror, ~~by~~ an example was the purge of the Girondins ~~in~~ between March 1793 and April of 1793 Robespierre supported the sans-culottes in a method to establish maximum prices ^{on bread} as the sans-culottes were still poor due to the First Coalition demands to feed bread to the French armies and ~~was~~ more assignments printed making value of currency drop by half, the Girondins didn't like the idea of introducing a maximum price on bread and on April Robespierre ordered Marat ~~to~~ to accuse the Girondins of corrupt and so he succeeded in doing as Marat was a great speaker but in revenge his accusations ~~was~~ were sentenced when Girondin leader Brissot ~~was~~ put ~~in~~ Marat into trial, the journal of 2 June followed with an arrest of 29 Girondins claimed by by Georges Couthon.

In revenge for this arrest Charlotte Corday ended up assassinating Marat and ^{the} sparked Jacobins for the arrest of remaining Girondins by Revolutionary Tribunals.

All Robespierre wanted was Jacobin dominance and he succeeded by abolishing the Girondin party although this then caused the Terror of anti-Jacobin dominance with federalist revolts.

(This page is for your second answer) In Conclusion I think
it is arguable that Robespierre was mostly influenced
in the emerging of Terror as more.