



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2020

WHI01/1A

Pearson Edexcel International GCE

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.
- Across all of the questions, 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 to be the most popular, followed by question 2, question 4 and question 3 was the least popular.
- In question 1 many candidates were able to consider the challenge posed by the Paris Parlement and consider it other challenges.
- In question 2 candidates were able to discuss whether Danton was the main driving force of the revolution and judge that against other possible factors.

Put a cross in the box indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer. If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1 Question 2
 Question 3 Question 4

(This page is for your first answer) _____

Plan: Yes	NO
- Danton led the Cordeliers ↳ called for the Abdication of king - Champs de Mars massacre	 - The Flight to Varennes - The Rising in the Vendee - The war against Austria ↳ Brunswick Manifesto led to September massacres.

Historians argue whether ~~the~~ Danton was the main driving force of the revolution in the year 1791 - 1793. Although there were other factors like the Rising in the Vendee and the Flight to Varennes, Danton was the leader of the Cordeliers, so some blame should be placed on his feet too. Danton was a close friend of Robespierre and the leader of the most radical groups at the time. So yes, we can argue that the evolution of the revolution was greatly impacted by Danton.

~~Danton was the leader~~ Historians argue that Danton was the main driving force of the Revolution, because as I have mentioned before, he was the leader of the radical group, the Cordeliers. The Cordeliers saw their role as the overwatchers.

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(This page is for your first answer) of the deputies and government, so it can be implemented that some of the radical decisions the National Assembly took, were highly influenced by ~~the~~ Danton and the Cordeliers.

The blame ~~was~~ for the revolution must also be placed on Danton, because after the Flight to Varennes in 1791, they shared their most radical idea: the abdication of Louis XVI. While the government at the time was looking more towards a constitutional monarchy and the ~~take away~~ ~~of some of~~ elimination of the king's legislative power, the Cordeliers called for the complete eradication of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic. This radical idea led to the Champs des Mars massacre on the 17 July 1791. Danton and the Cordeliers called for the insurrection of the sans-culottes for the abdication of the monarch. However, what started as a protest, ended up ~~as~~ with chaos, violence and bloodshed as the National Guard fired at the crowd. This event was only a preview of what France was going to turn into and it not only symbolises the power and importance the Cordeliers had, but also the radicalisation of the people.

We can also blame Danton for the Revolution.



(This page is for your first answer) ~~also~~ because of his actions during the September Massacres. Paranoia had an important effect on the sans-culottes as they started to believe that the political prisoners were starting to plot against the revolution. They decided to take matters into their own hands as Danton and Marat fuelled rumours about the counter-revolutionary plot. During the bloodshed of the September Massacres, Danton decided to take over the Assembly, as they had refused to depose the king. This marked a turning point on the revolution and on the direction of the government. Therefore we can agree that Danton was a main driving force of the Revolution.

On the other hand, we should also take into account other factors like the king's role as a monarch and his flight to Varennes. On the morning of June 21st 1791, the people found that the king had fled the capital. However he was caught in the town of Varennes and was brought back to Paris. This flight to Varennes marked a turning point in the French Revolution as it caused the general distrust of the king and his weak character. The flight to Varennes meant that the king felt like a prisoner in his own country as he



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(This page is for your first answer) could not control the ambient of fervour and the depart from the ancien regime. The king's flight also showed that the king was not willing to act as a constitutional monarch and was therefore perceived as an enemy to the revolution. The king's flight to Varennes led to the radicalisation of many political clubs like the Jacobins and the Cordeliers, who even called for the disposal of the king. So, it can be argued that Danton's influence on the revolution was only caused by the Flight to Varennes and therefore, this was the true driving force of the revolution.

Also, historians also agree on the opinion that the true driving force of the revolution was the Rising in the Vendée, because it not only meant that counter-revolutionary action was a threat, but there was also a fear that it might spread to other provinces.

The Rising in the Vendée happened because as a cause of the reforms of the National Assembly and the levy announced. The Vendée region was a pro-monarchist area with a large number of refractory priests that were appalled by the Civil Constitution of the Clergy. The Vendéans formed a Vendean army and the



(This page is for your first answer) National Assembly decided to send 30,000 National Guards to quell the rebellion. Due to the Rising in the Vendée, the Assembly decided to pass the Law of Frimaire, which stated that anyone who was seen carrying weapons and wearing royal insignia, were to be arrested. This law further increased the number of suspects during the Terror and definitely radicalised more the environment in France. Because the Rising in the Vendée had such a great impact, we can argue that this event was a major driving force in comparison to Danton.

Another event that could be considered as a major driving force was the war against Prussia and Austria. The war went badly for France during the first months, so the government ordered a levy of 30,000 conscripts, which would later cause the Rising in the Vendée. The Alliance Declaration made during the war also created a feeling of fear amongst the French population. It declared that Austria was willing to reinstate the power of the monarchy in France. Both the people and the government were fearful of this as they didn't want France to return to the despotic rule of King Louis XVI. Alongside the



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(This page is for your first answer) Pillnitz Declaration, the Brunswick Manifesto stated that if the king was harmed, Austria would forcibly take over Paris. There was a fear of an Austrian invasion amongst the crowds, but they acted ~~on the~~ opposite to what the Manifesto declared. This is known as the September Massacres, a point where radicalisation was heightened as well as the feeling of a revolution. The Brunswick Manifesto ~~is~~ also what ~~was~~ ultimately led to the beheading of Louis and the end of the monarchy in France, so it is clear that the war had an impact on the revolution and was definitely a driving force.

To conclude, I don't think that Danton was the main driving force of the Revolution, but I do believe that he ~~was~~ did have an impact on the evolution and direction of it. Instead, I think that the Flight to Varennes had a major force.

~~If~~ If it were not for the attempted fleeing, the radicalisation of political clubs would have not occurred so suddenly and the people would have not called for the abdication of the king so soon.



This example was awarded level 4 and given full marks. There is a clear evaluation and exploration of the issue raised by the interpretation, good range and depth of knowledge and criteria are applied in reaching a sustained judgement.

- In question 3 candidates saw a limited number of responses, despite the fact that it covers an area clearly identified in the specification.
- In question 4 candidates considered whether or not Napoleon's Consulship destroyed the principles of the revolution, and some challenged the idea by considering if the principles had already been destroyed. This approach was valid and demonstrated how candidates deploying this approach had determined some criteria that allowed them to evaluate the interpretation.

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