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Edexcel

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2021

Pearson Edexcel International A Level

History

International Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1A: France in Revolution, 1774–99

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WHI01 1A : France in Revolution, 1774-99

The entry for this paper was relatively small. Candidates chose two questions from four, with the most popular being Question 1, followed by Question 2, 3 and then Question 4.

Question 1

Candidates who answered this question were able to consider whether the most significant threat faced by the ancient regime was the Third Estate rather than the Enlightenment. Those that really focused comparing the two and then reached a judgement scored highly. Some candidates saw it as an opportunity to list every threat without making a judgement about the issue in the question.

Question 2

Candidates were able to consider the events of 1792-93 and reach a judgement based on the issue in the question. Many saw the execution of the King as the most significant and justified this against the issue in the question. Other events that were considered ranged from war with Austria and Prussia and the September Massacres.

Question 3

Most candidates who answered this question agree with the issue raised by the question. They balanced out harm and benefit before reaching a conclusion.

Question 4

Most candidates who answered this question agreed that the Directory brought stability in some sense, but noted that it also opened the door for Napoleon. Economic stability was referenced the most.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.
- When judgments are made they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.