GradeMax



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in History (WHI01)
Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations
Option 1A: France in Revolution, 1774-99

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Generic Level Descriptors for Paper 1

Targets: AO1 (10 marks): Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

AO3 (15 marks): Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, difference ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	**1-6**	• Simple or generalised statements are made about the view presented in the question. • Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the issue in the question. • Judgement on the view is assertive, with little supporting evidence.
2	**7-12**	• Some understanding of the issue raised by the question is shown and analysis is attempted by describing some points that are relevant. • Mostly accurate knowledge is included, but it lacks range or depth and only has implicit links to issues relevant to the question. • A judgement on the view is given, but with limited support and the criteria for judgement are left implicit.
3	**13-18**	• Understanding and some analysis of the issue raised by the question is shown by selecting and explaining some key points of view that are relevant. • Knowledge is included to demonstrate some understanding of the issues raised by the question, but material lacks range or depth • Attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement on the view and to relate the overall judgement to them, although with weak substantiation.
4	**19-25**	• Key issues relevant to the question are explored by analysing and explaining the issues of interpretation raised by the claim. • Sufficient knowledge is deployed to demonstrate understanding of the issues raised by the question and to meet most of its demands. • Valid criteria by which the view can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement. Although some of the evaluations may only be partly substantiated, the overall judgement is supported.

Question	Indicative content
1	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years before 1789, the impact of the American Revolution was the most significant problem facing the ancien régime. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The impact of the American Revolution created a precedent for the overthrow of a legitimate leader in the interest of the ruled and this influenced many in France • The return of French soldiers, e.g. Lafayette, who had fought with the rebels, from the American wars influenced revolutionary fervour • The educated classes drew parallels between the 'tyranny' of George III of Great Britain and his 'despotic' ministers, and that of Louis and his ministers in France • The American Revolution had a serious financial impact, as involvement in the wars forced the French government to take out loans at interest rates that it could ill afford and to impose the triple *vingtième* in 1782. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The structure of France's financial system was defective and the attempts to reform it triggered problems for the ancien régime • The nobles were resentful of the 'May Edicts', which deprived them of the right to register their protest against royal decrees and this caused serious problems for the ancien régime, e.g. the Revolt of the Nobles • The Enlightenment and the spread of new ideas challenged the role of the monarchy and privilege and this caused problems for the ancien régime • A series of poor harvests created pressure on food supplies for a growing population and this led to peasant and worker unrest. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
2	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years 1789-92, the sans-culottes played the most significant role in driving the French Revolution. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The sans-culottes, a mixture of craftsmen, shopkeepers, labourers and some professions, believed in equal rights and these were ideas central to the revolution • The sans-culottes hated the privilege of the aristocrats and believed that food should be distributed to those in need • In 1789, the sans-culottes provided the muscle power behind the Estates General, e.g. the capture of the Bastille and bringing the court to Paris • In August 1792, the sans-culottes further drove the revolution, e.g. they surrounded the Legislative Assembly and coerced it into suspending the monarch. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • In 1789, the revolution was driven by liberal aristocrats and the middle class, and they introduced significant reforms in 1789-91 • It was nobles like Mirabeau and Lafayette who drove more significant change, by using and manipulating the sans-culottes for their own purpose • The Legislative Assembly and the Convention, rather than the sans-culottes, drove the revolution, e.g. by adopting a new calendar and replacing Christian symbols • The actions of the King, e.g. the flight to Varennes radicalised the revolution • The Jacobins became the most radical group within the Convention and the contest between themselves and the Girondins drove the revolution. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
3	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years 1793-94, the main feature of The Terror was attacks on traditional religion. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Catholic Church was attacked with a campaign to close all churches by the spring of 1794 • The attack saw the destruction of religious signs and symbols, e.g. the Paris commune destroyed religious and royal statues, and changed street names with religious connections • The position of Priests was attacked, e.g. they were forced to marry or adopt orphans, and the paying of clerical salaries was stopped in May 1793, and the wearing of clerical dress was banned • The religious significance of Notre Dame was ended; it became the 'Temple of Reason'. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Attacks on religion varied in intensity across France during The Terror • The Terror had an impact on French citizens, e.g. between 15,000 to 50,000 were arrested, imprisoned without trial and beheaded at the guillotine, based on the 'Law of Suspects' • The Terror resulted in key figures who had supported the revolution, e.g. Danton, coming under 'suspicion' and being killed • The safeguarding of the Parisian revolutionary dominance and energising the national cause were important consequences of The Terror. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
4	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether the Thermidorean Government (July 1794 – October 1795) governed France more effectively than did the Directory (November 1795 – November 1799). The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Thermidorean government ended the excesses of The Terror, e.g. the Revolutionary Tribunal was abolished, the Law of Prairial was repealed and the Jacobin Club was closed • There was a greater spirit of toleration and a partially successful attempt to reconcile Republicans and Royalists • The Thermidorean government formally separated the church from the state, e.g. the state no longer paid clerical salaries, religious freedom was guaranteed • The Thermidorean government reassured property owners who had gained from the revolution that their gains were secure. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Directory avoided the extremism of the Jacobins and the sans-culottes and the conservatism of the royalists and the ancien régime • The Directory prevented government by dictatorship, e.g. members of the Directory would not be able to sit in either of the two large councils and their powers were limited • The Directory introduced short-term economic measures, e.g. the restoration of some indirect taxation and a new currency, which stabilised the economy • The threat of extremism had not gone away, but was successfully dealt with when it reared its head, e.g. the Babeuf Plot and the Coup of Fructidor. Other relevant material must be credited.

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