

STUDENT NUMBER

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# HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS

## Written examination

Monday 6 November 2023

Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)

Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)

### QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

#### Structure of book

| <i>Section</i> | <i>Number of questions</i> | <i>Number of questions to be answered</i> | <i>Number of marks</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| A              | 4                          | 2   | 50                     |
| B              | 4                          | 1   | 20                     |
|                |                            |   | Total 70               |

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 28 pages, including **assessment criteria for Section B** on page 28
- Sources book for Section A
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

#### Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

#### At the end of the examination

- You may keep the sources book.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.**

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**SECTION A**

**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **two** of the following questions in the spaces provided.

| <b>Revolution</b>                          | <b>Pages</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Question 1 – The American Revolution ..... | 4–7          |
| Question 2 – The French Revolution .....   | 8–11         |
| Question 3 – The Russian Revolution .....  | 12–15        |
| Question 4 – The Chinese Revolution .....  | 16–19        |

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**SECTION B****Instructions for Section B**

Write an essay on **one** of the following questions in the space provided.

Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 28.

Shade the box next to your selected question, and write the question number and the name of the revolution in the boxes provided on page 21.

**Question 1** (20 marks)

**The American Revolution**

‘From July 1776, the War of Independence devastated the American economy and caused challenges that threatened the new society.’

To what extent do you agree? Use evidence to support your response.

**OR**

**Question 2** (20 marks)

**The French Revolution**

‘From August 1789, the revolution totally changed the way France was governed, but life for urban workers and peasants remained largely the same.’

To what extent do you agree? Use evidence to support your response.

**OR**

**Question 3** (20 marks)

**The Russian Revolution**

‘Between October 1917 and 1927, Bolshevik revolutionary leaders failed to achieve any of their revolutionary ideals.’

To what extent do you agree? Use evidence to support your response.

**OR**

**Question 4** (20 marks)

**The Chinese Revolution**

‘Between October 1949 and 1976, the Chinese Communist Party was the only group that truly benefitted from the revolution.’

To what extent do you agree? Use evidence to support your response.

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### **Assessment criteria for Section B**

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- construction of a coherent and relevant historical argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of historical knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- application of historical thinking concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, and/or historical significance
- use of sources as evidence to support a historical argument, including a range of primary sources, perspectives and historical interpretations

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**END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK**

**Victorian Certificate of Education  
2023**

**HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS**  
**Written examination**

**Monday 6 November 2023**

**Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)**

**Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)**

**SOURCES BOOK**

**Instructions**

A question and answer book is provided with this sources book.

Refer to the sources in this book for each question in Section A, as indicated in the question and answer book.

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## The American Revolution

Sources 1–4 relate to Question 1.

### Source 1

This is an engraving, published circa 1889, titled *The Stamp Act Riots at Boston, America, 1765*. It shows American colonists protesting against a British government tax revenue Act.



Source: unknown artist, *The Stamp Act Riots at Boston, America 1765*, circa 1889/Alamy Stock Photo

The text on the banner reads 'THE FOLLY<sup>1</sup> OF ENGLAND AND THE RUIN OF AMERICA'.

<sup>1</sup>**folly** – foolish behaviour

## Source 2

A historical interpretation, published in 1982, outlining the relationship between Britain and the American colonies between the events at Lexington and Concord in April 1775 and early 1776

News of the battles at Lexington and Concord had made compromise all the more unlikely, and Bunker Hill had hardened resolves<sup>1</sup>. Late in August the king expressed much of the public, and private, outrage at American behavior by proclaiming that the colonies were in “an open and avowed<sup>2</sup> rebellion.” ...

Many in Parliament had doubtless come to the same conclusion when fighting began ... and just before the year ended [Parliament] passed, on December 22, 1775, the American Prohibitory Act, which ordered all trade with the colonies stopped. This statute<sup>3</sup> made American ships and their cargoes fair game for the Royal Navy; all ships trading with the colonies were to be “forfeited<sup>4</sup> to his Majesty ...”

Had the king, his ministry, and the Parliament attempted to persuade the Americans to separate themselves from the empire they could not have chosen much more effective means than those of April onward.

Source: R Middlekauff, *The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution 1763–1789*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1982, p. 315

<sup>1</sup>**hardened resolves** – strengthened this belief

<sup>2</sup>**avowed** – obvious, easily seen

<sup>3</sup>**statute** – law

<sup>4</sup>**forfeited** – taken as a penalty

## Source 3

An extract from a letter dated 24 February 1787 written by James Madison, outlining some of his views on America’s first Constitution, The Articles of Confederation

... Indeed the present System neither has nor deserves advocates<sup>1</sup>; and if some very strong props<sup>2</sup> are not applied will quickly tumble to the ground. No money is paid into the public Treasury; no respect is paid to the federal authority. Not a single State complies with the requisitions<sup>3</sup>, several pass them over in silence, and some positively reject them. The payments ever since the peace have been decreasing, and of late fall short even of the pittance<sup>4</sup> necessary for the Civil list<sup>5</sup> of the Confederacy. It is not possible that a Government can last long under these circumstances.

Source: ‘From James Madison to Edmund Pendleton, 24 February 1787’, *Founders Online*, National Archives, <[www.founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-09-02-0151](http://www.founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-09-02-0151)>  
Original source: RA Rutland and WME Rachal (ed.), *The Papers of James Madison, vol. 9, 9 April 1786–24 May 1787 and supplement 1781–1784*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1975, pp. 294–296

<sup>1</sup>**advocates** – supporters

<sup>2</sup>**props** – supports

<sup>3</sup>**requisitions** – requests for payments and resources

<sup>4</sup>**pittance** – tiny amount

<sup>5</sup>**Civil list** – the wages of government workers

**Source 4**

A historical interpretation of differences between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates about the Constitution, published in 2012

... [The] antifederalists mounted their assault on the Constitution. The newspapers teemed<sup>1</sup> with their condemnations<sup>2</sup> of a constitution that would legalize vast governmental powers, and failed even to include a bill of rights that might stand as a protector of the individual liberties that had been won in the Revolution ...

...

Such was the challenge that faced the federalist leaders in the ratification struggle ... They had, first, to convince doubters that the existing situation under the Articles of Confederation was disastrous, verging on chaos, and that only a radical strengthening of the powers of the central government would solve the nation's problems. They had, next, to explain the details of the proposed government and show how it met the current needs without destroying the liberties America had fought for ...

Source: B Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge (MA), 1992, pp. 349 and 351

<sup>1</sup>**teemed** – overflowed

<sup>2</sup>**condemnations** – strong criticisms

## The French Revolution

Sources 5–8 relate to Question 2.

### Source 5

This engraving, printed in 1789, is titled *Awakening of the Third Estate*. The destruction of the Bastille and a crowd holding heads on pikes are shown in the background.



Source: unknown artist, *Awakening of the Third Estate*, coloured engraving, July 1789/Bridgeman Stock Photo

The caption at the bottom of the image translates to ‘I was pretending. It was time I woke up as the oppression<sup>1</sup> of my chains was giving me too strong a nightmare.’

<sup>1</sup>**oppression** – cruel or unfair treatment

**Source 6**

A historical interpretation, published in 2002, of the ‘Great Fear’ of late July and early August 1789

Fear of aristocratic revenge replaced ... hope as news of the Bastille arrived: were bands of beggars roaming through ripening corn the agents of vengeful seigneurs<sup>1</sup>? Hope, fear, and hunger made the countryside a tinder-box<sup>2</sup> ignited by imagined sightings of ‘brigands’<sup>3</sup>. Panics spread from five separate sparks as bushfires of angry rumours ... [to] every region but Brittany and the east. When noble revenge failed to materialize<sup>4</sup>, village militias instead turned their weapons on the seigneurial system<sup>5</sup> itself, compelling seigneurs or their agents to hand over feudal registers<sup>6</sup> to be burned on the village square.

Source: P McPhee, *The French Revolution 1789–1799*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002, p. 57

<sup>1</sup>**vengeful seigneurs** – landowners seeking revenge

<sup>2</sup>**tinder-box** – something that easily catches fire

<sup>3</sup>**brigands** – thieves

<sup>4</sup>**materialize** – happen

<sup>5</sup>**seigneurial system** – peasants were obliged to make payments to the landowner, in cash, produce or labour

<sup>6</sup>**feudal registers** – documents that recorded feudal dues or taxes owed

**Source 7**

An extract from the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen, approved by the National Assembly on 26 August 1789

Article 1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may only be based on common usefulness.

Article 2. The goal of every political association is the preservation of man’s natural and imprescriptible rights<sup>1</sup>. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.

Article 3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body or individual may exercise authority that does not expressly emanate<sup>2</sup> from it.

Article 4. Liberty consists in being able to do anything that is not harmful to others. Thus, the only limits to the exercise of the natural rights of each man are those that ensure the enjoyment of the same rights for other members of society ...

...

Article 10. No man may be harassed<sup>3</sup> for his opinions, even religious ones, as long as their manifestation<sup>4</sup> does not trouble the public order established by the law.

Source: P Dwyer and P McPhee (eds.), *The French Revolution and Napoleon: A Sourcebook*, Routledge, London, 2002, pp. 27 and 28

<sup>1</sup>**imprescriptible rights** – rights that cannot be taken away or lost

<sup>2</sup>**emanate** – originate from

<sup>3</sup>**harassed** – persecuted, bullied

<sup>4</sup>**manifestation** – display

**Source 8**

A historical interpretation of laws passed during The Terror by the National Convention, published in 2016

On 5 September 1793, an armed crowd once again surrounded the Convention, demanding that it make “terror the order of the day.” ... new laws ensured that the government of France would remain “revolutionary until the peace,” as a decree passed on 10 October 1793 put it. For the next ten months, France lived under a full-fledged revolutionary dictatorship, in which almost all individual rights were suspended.

On 29 September, the Convention voted a general maximum, extending the price controls earlier imposed on grain ... The government also imposed censorship<sup>1</sup> to silence political opposition. The “law of suspects,” passed on 17 September, set up surveillance<sup>2</sup> committees throughout the country ...

...

... On 5 October 1793, the Convention replaced the Christian calendar with a new revolutionary one, meant to show that the Revolution had begun a new era in human history.

Source: J Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*, Routledge, London and New York, 2014, pp. 69–71

<sup>1</sup> **censorship** – a ban on publishing or circulating ideas, images or writing

<sup>2</sup> **surveillance** – watching and investigating

## The Russian Revolution

Sources 9–12 relate to Question 3.

### Source 9

This is an untitled cartoon of the February Revolution, published in an American newspaper on 18 March 1917. A throne and crown are shown in the bottom-left section of the image.



Source: unknown artist, *Untitled*, *New York Tribune*, 18 March 1917, p. 1

The word **plutocracy** means 'government by the wealthy'.

**Source 10**

A historical interpretation of Lenin's role in the Bolshevik seizure of power, published in 2002

... Lenin became convinced that ... the time was now ripe<sup>1</sup> for the Bolsheviks to seize power in the name of the soviets. He blitzed<sup>2</sup> the Central Committee with demands that it prepare an insurrection<sup>3</sup>, even threatening to resign on 29 September. 'History will not forgive us if this opportunity to take power is missed.' The majority of the leadership was unenthusiastic, believing that it would be better to allow power to pass democratically to the soviets by waiting for the Second Congress of Soviets ... Lenin returned in secret to Petrograd and on 10 October persuaded the Central Committee to commit<sup>4</sup> itself to the overthrow of the Provisional Government ...

... On 24 October military units, backed by ... Red Guards, took control of ... strategic points. Kerensky fled ...

Source: SA Smith, *The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002, pp. 35 and 37

<sup>1</sup>**ripe** – right, ideal

<sup>2</sup>**blitzed** – swamped, bombarded

<sup>3</sup>**insurrection** – uprising

<sup>4</sup>**commit** – agree, promise

**Source 11**

A letter written by a peasant to Bolshevik leaders, dated 10 January 1918

Rulers, plunderers<sup>1</sup>, ... destroyers ...

... you declared war on Russia ... Your mercenary<sup>2</sup> Red Guards are looting, murdering ... Rail transport is idle<sup>3</sup>, as are the plants and factories; the entire population has woken up to find itself ... without bread or kerosene or any of the other essentials, unclothed and unshod<sup>4</sup> in unheated houses ... You promised to open the Constituent Assembly right away, so it could decide Russia's fate, but ... you, in order not to be taken from power, are trying to disband<sup>5</sup> the Constituent Assembly and arrest the people's representatives ... You have strangled the entire press, and freedom with it ... you butchers, you hirelings of the Kaiser<sup>6</sup> ... [The] Russian people will sober up and that will be the end of you. I'm writing in red ink to show that you are bloodthirsty.

Source: MD Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution, 1917*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2001, pp. 302 and 303, State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)

<sup>1</sup>**plunderers** – thieves, criminals

<sup>2</sup>**mercenary** – greedy, corrupt

<sup>3</sup>**idle** – not in use

<sup>4</sup>**unshod** – without shoes

<sup>5</sup>**disband** – shut down

<sup>6</sup>**hirelings of the Kaiser** – hired soldiers of the German king

**Source 12**

This is a historical interpretation of the Red Terror, published in 1991. The author begins this book with the words ‘To the victims’.

The Bolsheviks had practiced<sup>1</sup> terror from the day they seized power, intensifying<sup>2</sup> it as their power grew and their popularity declined ...

...

... [On] September 5, 1918 ... the Sovnarkom, having heard a report from the director of the Cheka, decided that it was imperative<sup>3</sup> to intensify the policy of terror. “Class enemies” of the regime were to be isolated in concentration camps and all persons with links to “White Guard organizations, conspiracies, and seditious<sup>4</sup> actions ...” were subject to immediate execution.

...

... [The] purpose of the Red Terror was ... to create an atmosphere of general intimidation ... As Krylenko<sup>5</sup> put it: “We must execute not only the guilty. Execution of the innocent will impress the masses even more.”

Source: R Pipes, *The Russian Revolution*, Vintage Books, New York, 1991, pp. 816, 819, 822

<sup>1</sup>**practiced** – used

<sup>2</sup>**intensifying** – increasing

<sup>3</sup>**imperative** – critical, urgent

<sup>4</sup>**seditious** – rebellious, disloyal

<sup>5</sup>**Krylenko** – Commissar (Minister) of Justice, Chairman of the Revolutionary Tribunal

## The Chinese Revolution

*Sources 13–16 relate to Question 4.*

### Source 13

This 1976 painting by a Chinese artist depicts the events of 4 May 1919. It includes the first flag of the Chinese Republic.



Source: L Yulong, *May Fourth Movement*, Landsberger collection, Shanghai renmin chubanshe, 1976, Chinese posters.net, <[www.chinese posters.net/posters/e15-575](http://www.chinese posters.net/posters/e15-575)>

The text on some of the banners translates to ‘Down with Confucianism’, ‘Abolish unfair treaty’ and ‘Peking (Beijing) University’.

**Source 14**

A historical interpretation of the actions and motives of Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) during the period of the Northern Expedition, published in 2019

With the Northern Expedition, Chiang Kai-shek pursued two goals, hoping both to secure his leadership of the party and government and to eliminate the remnants<sup>1</sup> of the Beiyang warlord network that still controlled large swaths<sup>2</sup> of North China. In July 1926, the Soviet-supplied National Revolutionary Army, one hundred thousand men ... left its stronghold in Guangzhou ... to overpower the warlords ... communist agitators and propagandists spread out, persuading warlord subordinates<sup>3</sup> to defect to the nationalist side while encouraging strikes and peasant revolts ...

Once victory seemed within reach, Chiang broke with those forces that had provided crucial support ... Chiang ended the cooperation with the Comintern<sup>4</sup> ... and shortly thereafter banned CCP<sup>5</sup> members from serving on GMD<sup>6</sup> committees. On April 12, 1927, he decided to finally purge<sup>7</sup> the party, government, and army of all communists ...

Source: K Mühlhahn, *Making China Modern: From the Great Qing to Xi Jinping*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge (MA), 2019, p. 262

<sup>1</sup>**remnants** – remains

<sup>2</sup>**swaths** – large areas of land

<sup>3</sup>**subordinates** – deputies

<sup>4</sup>**Comintern** – international Communist organisation

<sup>5</sup>**CCP** – Chinese Communist Party

<sup>6</sup>**GMD** – Guomindang (Kuomintang)

<sup>7</sup>**purge** – forcibly remove

**Source 15**

A historical interpretation of the Hundred Flowers Campaign and Mao Zedong's (Mao Tse-tung's) response to it, published in 2004

Under his [Mao's] promptings, the members<sup>1</sup> began to put forward their ideas. These began as a trickle, but, as the comrades gained confidence, they became a spate<sup>2</sup>. It was as if suppressed frustrations were being released. As the criticisms increased in number, they turned sharper in tone. Mild suggestions for the improvement of the Party were superseded<sup>3</sup> by increasingly sharp denunciations<sup>4</sup> of individuals and policies. Doubts were even cast on whether the CCP had the sole right to govern China. The climax came with direct attacks on Mao himself ... Mao declared himself appalled and took to his bed again ... He confided to his doctor: 'We want to coax<sup>5</sup> the snakes out of their holes. Then we will strike. My strategy is to let the poisonous weeds grow first and then destroy them one by one.'

Source: M Lynch, *Mao*, Second Ed., Routledge, New York, 2017, p. 204

<sup>1</sup>**members** – Communist Party members

<sup>2</sup>**spate** – flood

<sup>3</sup>**superseded** – replaced

<sup>4</sup>**denunciations** – public criticisms

<sup>5</sup>**coax** – encourage, draw out

**Source 16**

This is an extract of a letter to Chairman Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) in which Peng Dehuai (P'eng Te-huai) explained his views on the Great Leap Forward. His letter was presented at a meeting of Communist Party leaders in July–August 1959.

... The Great Leap Forward has basically proved the correctness of the General Line for building socialism with greater, quicker, better, and more economical results in a country like ours ...

But as we can see now, an excessive number of capital construction projects were hastily<sup>1</sup> started in 1958 ... Because we did not have a deep enough understanding, we came to be aware of it too late. So we continued with our Great Leap Forward in 1959 instead of putting on the brakes and slowing down ... As a result, imbalances<sup>2</sup> were not corrected in time and new temporary difficulties cropped up<sup>3</sup> ...

In the nationwide campaign for the production of iron and steel, too many small blast furnaces were built with a waste of material, money, and manpower. This, of course, was a rather big loss.

Source: L Benson, *China: Since 1949*, Second Ed., Pearson Education Limited, Essex, 2011, pp. 138 and 139

<sup>1</sup>**hastily** – too quickly

<sup>2</sup>**imbalances** – faults, mistakes

<sup>3</sup>**cropped up** – emerged, appeared





