

# GCE French – 6FR04

## Research-based Essay Guide

### Exemplar 1 – Étude historique

Summer 2014

#### **PREFACE**

##### **Use of Exemplar Material**

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##### **Notes on the Exemplar Material**

Please note that:

- Some items may have been removed, such as references to individuals and places. Please refer to the commentaries by the Principal Examiner for specific references.
- In order to maintain the authenticity of the writing, some errors and mistakes have been reproduced from the original candidate's response.

### Question 3 (b) - Étude historique

***Quel développement pendant la période que vous avez étudiée s'est été plus difficile ou le plus facile à accepter pour la population ? Justifiez votre réponse.***

La Révolution Française est l'un des moments les plus importants de l'histoire de France. Dans l'espace d'une décennie (1789-99) elle change complètement le paysage social, économique et politique du pays. Ces événements extraordinaires qui bouleversent la France auront aussi une influence profonde sur le reste de l'Europe pour des siècles à venir.

La France a toujours été un pays fortement associé avec l'église catholique, et le clergé français a toujours eu d'immenses pouvoirs. Le nouveau gouvernement révolutionnaire a changé cela. La Constitution civile du Clergé de juillet 1790, ainsi que la nationalisation des biens de l'église en novembre de la même année ont aboli le pouvoir du clergé et ont détracté la religion en France. C'est donc l'Assemblée Nationale, et non la papauté qui dirige l'église française.

Les réformes de la Constitution Civile du Clergé ont été mal acceptées par le clergé et le peuple rural en particulier. Cela a créé une division dans l'église entre le nouveau clergé révolutionnaire et ceux qui refusaient d'accepter les changements radicaux. Les mêmes divisions sont apparues dans la population française, ce qui a amené à la chute de l'Assemblée Nationale et même de la Convention (gouvernement de France en 1792-94).

Dirigeant de facto de la Convention, Maximilien Robespierre commence une politique de déchristianisation en 1793 et installe son Culte de l'Être suprême l'an prochain, ce qui enrage les catholiques ainsi : que les laïcs, et devient l'une des causes de sa chute en juillet 1794.

Comme le dit François Furet dans "La Révolution Française", "La haine a transformé en détracteur de religion ce déiste introspectif".

Il est donc clair que le peuple français n'acceptait pas de changements à sa religion et causait de grands problèmes aux gouvernements révolutionnaires pour cette raison. C'est seulement que l'instauration de la liberté de religion en 1795 par le Directoire que l'opposition religieuse s'est calmée.

(250 words)

## Commentary on Exemplar - Étude historique

The candidate has chosen to discuss the French Revolution, the second most popular period in the historical section during this specification after the Second World War Occupation. This important part of French history has enough material associated with it to cover the sub-topics listed in the specification and is, therefore, a good choice. The development chosen is also a good one. Changes to religion and the status of the church lend themselves both to narration of facts and to an evaluation of the effects of these measures and are thus in line with the requirements of the rubric.

The introduction is very general and could be used for just about any consideration of the Revolution. Once the candidate embarks on the main part of the essay, however, it is clear that the task has been understood and the implications fully appreciated. The candidate has addressed the precise terms of the question closely. Good factual detail is given. The candidate explains in broad terms changes made to the situation of the church and contends that these were opposed by two broad groups, not surprisingly by the clergy but also by the rural population. The essay becomes more specific when it deals with Robespierre's policies on religion and explains that these contributed to his eventual downfall, an interesting personal viewpoint. The opposition to successive measures is stated but the analysis could include a little more proof. The ways in which the clergy and the rural population registered their opposition are not really given in any detail. It is clear, however, that the Revolution has been carefully studied and the topic is well understood. The conclusion is a fitting one since it explains how and when religious turmoil was brought to an end. For Reading, Research and Understanding the essay can easily be placed in the range 19-24.

The rather vacuous nature of the introduction has already been alluded to. In the middle of the essay the material becomes much more pertinent. There is clear, logical progression within a succession of paragraphs and in the piece as a whole. A chronological thread also enhances the clarity of the treatment. The conclusion is very succinct and successfully draws the consideration of the chosen feature of the Revolution to a satisfactory close. For Organisation and Development the essay can be placed in the range 7-8.

The language is largely accurate and is well suited to the subject matter. Appropriate vocabulary is deployed and the essay reads well as a piece of historical writing. Appropriate lexis includes items such as, *une influence sur, les pouvoirs, le nouveau gouvernement révolutionnaire, la constitution, la nationalisation des biens, la chute, une politique.*

The candidate is also able to use the past tenses with facility, as required by historical subject matter and includes good structures such as the passive. For Quality of Language a score in the range 5-6 is appropriate.