



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2023

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Level In History (WHI01/1A)

Paper 1A: France in Revolution: 1774-90

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Publications Code WHI01_1A_2301_ER*

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Candidates chose two questions from four, with the most popular being Question 1, followed by Question 3, then 2 and finally 4.

Question 1

Candidates who answered this question were able to consider the issue regarding the significance of the Tennis Court Oath. Many agreed with the view, giving other reasons as balance but deciding that the event important to the revolution. Some saw the storming of the Bastille as the most significance judging that its symbolic significance was more important.

Question 2

Candidates who answered this question tended to agree with the issue raised by the question. However, there was some appreciation of other events that were key. Some focused on the war with Austria and Prussia and some on the suspension of the monarch. The key in this question was to consider the radicalising effect and not just describe the events of 1792.

Question 3

Most candidates who answered this question considered the issue raised by the question and made judgements about both factors that were in the view. Some considered both factors and also considered other factors when reaching a judgement. Candidates who were clear on their criteria for judgement were able to access the higher levels.

Question 4

There were only a few candidates who answered this question. Knowledge of the achievements of the Thermidorian government was weak and some candidates saw it as an opportunity to describe what the Directory did rather than focus on the issue in the question.

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.

