



Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback
June 2025

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Subsidiary In History (WHI01)

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations
Options 1A: France in Revolution 1774 - 99

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June 2025

Publications Code WHI01_1A_2506_ER

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WHI01 1A : France in Revolution, 1774-99

The entry for this paper was slightly increased compared to previous series. Candidates chose any two questions from four.

Question 1

This was generally well answered. Many candidates were able to consider the significance of the impact of the American Revolution on the ancient régime. There was consideration of its financial impact, involvement of key French participants, e.g. Lafayette and the parallels between monarchical rule in Britain and France. Counter arguments were also suggested and developed, including the whole structure of France's financial state being a major problem even without the American Revolution, the resentment felt by some of the aristocracy, the influence of the Enlightenment and recurring poor harvests. There were candidates described the condition that France was in and described the Estate system, without actual reference to the issue raised by the question.

Question 2

This question was popular, but some candidates saw the question as an opportunity describe some of the events in the years 1789-92 rather than consider who, or what played the most significant role in driving the revolution. Those who focused on the issue considered the role of the sans-culottes and compared them to other key players, the role of the Assembly and the Convention. Some saw the role of the king as key. Those who proposed criteria judgement scored in the higher mark level.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. The issue in the question was discussed and supported with precise knowledge and other features of the Terror were also considered. Some candidates saw the question as an opportunity to describe key events of the Terror. Those that considered the impact on religion, and many did that very well, balanced this against features like the number of people who were affected by the Terror, the killing of key players in the revolution and the Terror's role in maintaining certain aspects of the Revolution. Some candidates recognised that the attack on religion was not consistent across France and used this a criteria for judgement.

Question 4

There were some responses to this question. Some candidates gave very generalised answers with limited knowledge. Some saw this as an opportunity to describe who the Thermidorean's and the Directory were. Those who engaged with the issue considered how one ended the Terror and attempted to govern based on co-operation, while the other delivered short term economic success and dealt with some aspects of extremism.

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 or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.

