

A-level HISTORY

Component 2F The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2F.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a diary entry during negotiations leading to the Treaty of Nijmegen, by Marshal Vauban, November 1678. Vauban was in charge of fortifications and had travelled along the frontier.

The French border on the Dutch side will be secured by the peace negotiations in Nijmegen. It is adequately fortified so that it now closes the entrances to our country from our Dutch enemies. However, in the event of war in the future, it is clear that a weakness might be found on the north eastern frontier, despite our control of Lorraine. Luxembourg poses a threat and it would secure our borders further if we were able to fortify there. With regards to Germany, if there was a war on this side, then our main objective would need to be to take and fortify Strasbourg, as without this territory our frontier is weakened. Conquest of Strasbourg is important enough to consider bringing further war against our German enemies. It would help us control the Rhine and I do not conceive of anything else that would strengthen our frontier further. After visiting the banks of the Meuse, I will share my thoughts on the border of Champagne with Germany.

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Source B

From a memoir written after the breakdown of relations between France and Brandenburg by a Brandenburg diplomat in Berlin in the 1690s. He had lived at Versailles in the 1680s.

The French Secretary of State, M. de Croissy, took the opportunity presented by the Treaty of Nijmegen, which he had been involved in negotiating, to make use of the vague clauses relating to Alsace and its alleged dependencies, and of Lorraine and the three bishoprics, Metz, Toul and Verdun. It was his view that special jurisdiction was given to the Sovereign Council of Alsace and partly to that of Metz to determine whether French claims to this territory were legal. This was of course favourable to France. It seemed that M. de Croissy believed himself to be sufficiently educated and authorised by the part he had played in negotiating the Treaty of Nijmegen to make these claims. He also supported the plan of closer alliances with the powers of Europe that he felt would help achieve French ambitions, whilst making negotiations with those countries who had opposing interests very difficult.

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Source C

From a letter to Louis XIV, sent from Strasbourg by the War Minister, marquis de Louvois, 4 October 1681. Strasbourg had previously been an Imperial free city.

The commander of Louis XIV's troops in Alsace this morning received the Mayor of Strasbourg's oath of loyalty, which he gave with very good grace. The people seem very happy indeed with the change of rule, and so far I have only received one complaint, from a woman whose husband got drunk with one of the soldiers. The magistrate strongly scolded her for having dared to find fault with what her husband had done. 5

Your Majesty can rest assured, now that this citadel of Strasbourg is taken, that we have a fortress on the Rhine that will allow us to secure our north-eastern frontier. No power in Europe will be in a position to drive Your Majesty out of his stronghold. Whilst it is unlikely that we will be attacked from within the city of Strasbourg, we will take the precaution of building barracks at the western end of the city, which will make it easy to contain any future threat from the bourgeois citizens. 10

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Louis XIV's policy of Reunions.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'There were significant changes in Louis XIV's religious policies in the 1670s.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 'Louis XIV was responsible for the outbreak of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1701.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 To what extent was Louis XIV's authority in France weakened in the years 1704 to 1715?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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