

Victorian Certificate of Education
Year

HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS

Written examination

Day Date

Reading time: *. to *.** (15 minutes)**

Writing time: *. to *.** (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.

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

The American Revolution

Sources 1–3 relate to Question 1.

Source 1

An extract from the resolutions of the *Stamp Act* Congress that were agreed to on 19 October 1765

The members of this Congress ... make the following declarations ...

...

[3rd.] That it is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted rights of Englishmen, that no taxes should be imposed on them, but with their own consent, given personally, or by their representatives.

...

8th. That the late act of parliament, entitled, An act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties in the British colonies and plantations in America, &c. by imposing taxes on the inhabitants of these colonies, and the said act, and several other acts, by extending the jurisdiction¹ of the courts of admiralty beyond its ancient limits, have a manifest tendency² to subvert³ the rights and liberties of the colonists.

9th. That the duties imposed by several late acts of parliament ... will be extremely burthensome⁴ and grievous⁵, and from the scarcity of specie⁶, the payment of them absolutely impracticable⁷.

...

11th. That the restrictions imposed by several late acts of parliament on the trade of these colonies will render them unable to purchase the manufactures of Great Britain.

Source: H Niles (ed.), 'Journal of the *Stamp Act* Congress; held at New York, 1765', *The Weekly Register*, vol. II, no. 47, 25 July 1812, Franklin Press, Baltimore, pp. 340 and 341

¹**jurisdiction** – power

²**manifest tendency** – clear trend

³**subvert** – undermine, threaten

⁴**burthensome** – difficult

⁵**grievous** – harmful

⁶**specie** – currency, money

⁷**impracticable** – impossible

Source 2

The cartoon below, titled *America in Flames*, was first published in London in December 1774, following the introduction of the Coercive Acts.



Source: unknown artist, *America in Flames*, woodcut print, December 1774; in *Hibernian Magazine*, January 1775; in British Museum, Prints and Drawings Department, London

The central figure in the cartoon is a woman who is on fire.

Two men, shown at the top, use devices called bellows to blow air into the fire. The bellows are labelled 'Quebec Bill' and 'Masachusetts Bay' (Massachusetts Bay). Next to these two men sits the devil.

On the right-hand side in the cartoon, a man (Lord North) is shown holding a piece of paper labelled 'Boston Port Bill'. On one of the steps in front of the woman lies an overturned teapot spilling tea.

Four men, approaching from left and right, attempt to put out the flames with water.

TURN OVER

Source 3

A historical interpretation, published in 2003, of the challenges faced by the new society during and following the War of Independence

The long struggle over the formal shape ...

It marked the most extreme aspect of a general conflict.

Due to copyright restrictions,
this material is not supplied.

Source: E Countryman, *The American Revolution*, 1st revised edition,
Hill and Wang, New York, 2003, p. 133

¹**Congress** – the Second Continental Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation

²**recourse** – alternative, strategy

³**redeemed** – bought back

⁴**broadside** – printed sheets of paper

⁵**aberration** – unusual event

The French Revolution

Sources 4–7 relate to Question 2.

Source 4

A historical interpretation, first published in 1932, of the conflict between Louis XVI and the nobility in the revolt of the Notables, 1787–1788

The aristocracy was a violent critic of despotism¹, it was said, and wanted to force the king to promulgate² a constitution so that henceforward no laws could be made or taxes imposed without the consent of the Estates-General. This is true. But they nevertheless intended that the Estates-General should stay divided into three, each order having one voice, the clergy and the nobility being thus assured³ of a majority ...

... The idea of a nation in which every citizen had exactly the same rights horrified them; they wanted to retain their honorific prerogatives⁴, keep their rank and, with even greater reason, preserve the feudal servitudes⁵.

Source: G Lefebvre, *The Great Fear of 1789: Rural Panic in Revolutionary France*, J White (trans.), Vintage Books, New York, 1973, pp. 35 and 36

¹**despotism** – political system in which the king holds absolute power

²**promulgate** – proclaim, announce

³**assured** – certain

⁴**honorific prerogatives** – privileges given as a mark of respect for rank or status

⁵**feudal servitudes** – rights by which noble landlords receive payments, produce and/or services from peasants

Source 5

The engraving below, published in 1789, shows the three orders making the French Constitution. Work on the Constitution began on 6 July 1789; it was completed and became law in September 1791. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen was included as an introduction.



Source: unknown artist, *Caricature, the three orders elaborating the French Constitution*, engraving, 1789;
Photo 12/Alamy Stock Photo

The text on the cover of the book shown in the engraving translates to 'New Constitutions'.

Source 6

The extract below is from a petition written on 14 July 1791, demanding the abdication of Louis XVI and the establishment of a republic. On 17 July 1791, about 6000 people signed the petition at the Champ de Mars.

Legislators! You had allocated the powers of the nation you represent. You had invested¹ Louis XVI with excessive authority. You had consecrated² tyranny in establishing him as an irremovable, inviolable³ and hereditary king. You had sanctioned⁴ the enslavement of the French in declaring that France was a monarchy.

...

It seemed that this so-called contract between a nation that gives everything, and an individual who gives nothing, had to [be] maintained. Until that time when Louis XVI had become an ungrateful traitor, we believed that we had only ourselves to blame for our ruined work.

... This so-called convention⁵ between a people and its king no longer exists. Louis has abdicated the throne. From now on Louis is nothing to us ...

...

Legislators, you have a great lesson before your eyes. Consider well that, after what has happened, it is impossible for you to inspire in the people any degree of confidence in an official called “king”. We therefore call upon you, in the name of the fatherland, to declare immediately that France is no longer a monarchy, but rather that it is a republic.

Source: *Champ de Mars: Petitions of the Cordelier and Jacobin Clubs*, in World History Commons, <<https://worldhistorycommons.org/champ-de-mars-petitions-cordelier-and-jacobin-clubs>>

¹**invested** – provided

²**consecrated** – strengthened

³**inviolable** – untouchable

⁴**sanctioned** – approved, allowed

⁵**convention** – contract, agreement

Source 7

A historical interpretation, published in 2016, of the rise of political divisions during the Revolution

Never before had the Revolution seen such horrifying bloodshed, but prominent revolutionaries, notably Danton and Marat, excused the killings: thereafter they would be derided¹ by their opponents as ‘septembriseurs’². For those hostile to the Revolution—at the time and ever since—the escalation³ of punitive⁴ violence was the result of a revolutionary intolerance and popular bloodlust already discernible⁵ in 1789. But it was the real menace of the counter-revolution and the mixed emotions of panic, outrage, pride and fear that it aroused which fostered a willingness to believe that enemies were omnipresent⁶. Then the outbreak of war transformed political divisions into matters of life and death. By the summer of 1792 the stakes being fought for were so high that a thorough purge⁷ of their enemies seemed to both sides the only way to secure or overturn the Revolution.

Source: P McPhee, *Liberty or Death: The French Revolution*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2016, p. 163

¹**derided** – strongly criticised

²**septembriseurs** – those responsible for the September Massacres, 2–6 September 1792

³**escalation** – rapid increase

⁴**punitive** – intended as punishment

⁵**discernible** – visible

⁶**omnipresent** – present everywhere

⁷**purge** – abrupt or violent removal

The Russian Revolution

Sources 8–11 relate to Question 3.

Source 8

An extract from a historical interpretation, published in 2014, of factory conditions for Russian workers

Factory conditions were terrible ... [According to Count Witte, Finance Minister from 1892,] ‘low wages appeared as a fortunate gift to Russian enterprise¹’. There was little factory legislation to protect labour ... The two most important factory laws – one in 1885 prohibiting the night-time employment of women and children, and the other in 1897 restricting the working day to eleven and a half hours – had to be wrenched² from the government. Small workshops were excluded from the legislation, although they probably employed the majority of the country’s workforce ... Unventilated working areas were filled with noxious fumes³. Shopfloors were crammed with dangerous machinery: there were frequent accidents ... [If workers] lost an eye or a limb, [they] could expect no more than a few roubles’ compensation. Workers’ strikes were illegal. There were no legal trade unions until 1905. Many factory owners treated workers like serfs⁴ ...
... Three-quarters of the factory workforce went on strike during 1905.

Source: O Figes, *Revolutionary Russia, 1891–1991*, Penguin Books, London, 2014, pp. 15 and 16

¹**enterprise** – factories and businesses

²**wrenched** – gained by great effort or force

³**noxious fumes** – poisonous air

⁴**serfs** – slaves

Source 9

An extract from a historical interpretation, published in 2000, of Lenin’s ideas on the importance of the working class

The Dictatorship of the Proletariat. Lenin saw this phase as a seizure of power by the party on behalf of the industrial workers. The party would form a dictatorship in order to ensure the Revolution survived in the face of counter-attacks by the bourgeoisie. Given the power of the bourgeoisie, this would require violence to be used ... The Dictatorship of the Proletariat would also promote socialism by removing private ownership and by the state taking over the economy to be run in the interests of the workers. When the risk of counter-revolution was dealt with Lenin believed that the state would wither away¹ and communism would develop.

Source: S Phillips, *Lenin and the Russian Revolution*, Heinemann Educational Publishers, Oxford, 2000, p. 123

¹**wither away** – disappear

Source 10

The poster below, titled *International communist youth organizations call all oppressed young people of all countries to join their ranks!*, was produced in 1920. It shows members of the Russian Communist Youth League encouraging the young workers of the world to join communist youth organisations.



Source: N Kochergin, *International communist youth organizations call all oppressed young people of all countries to join their ranks!*, poster, 1920;
Photo 12/Alamy Stock Photo

At the bottom left of the image, two books are shown. The word on the cover with the crown translates to 'Capital'. The word on the cover below it, partly covered, translates to 'Slavery'.

Source 11

The extract below is from a text written by Alexandra Kollontai, who held leadership positions in the Bolshevik/Communist Party from October 1917 to 1921. This text was first published in the newspaper *Pravda* on 25 January 1921 and it was banned in March 1921.

[To] the working class of Russia has fallen the lot of realising¹ Communism ... in an economically backward country with a preponderant² peasant population ...

...

... [During] these three years of the revolution, the economic situation of the working class, of those who work in factories and mills, has ... not been improved, but has become more unbearable ...

...

... During these three years of civil war, the proletariat heroically brought to the altar of the revolution their innumerable³ sacrifices. They waited patiently ...

The rank and file⁴ worker ... sees that so far the problems of hygiene, sanitation, improving conditions of labour ... – in other words, the betterment of the workers' lot⁵ has occupied the last place in our policy ... To our shame, in the heart of the Republic, in Moscow itself, working people are still living in filthy, overcrowded and unhygienic quarters, one visit to which makes one think that there has been no revolution at all.

Source: A Kollontai, *The Workers Opposition*, Solidarity Pamphlet no. 7, 2nd edition (with introduction and footnotes), London, 1968, pp. 6, 13 and 14

¹**the lot of realising** – the task of achieving

²**preponderant** – mainly

³**innumerable** – very many, countless

⁴**rank and file** – ordinary

⁵**lot** – circumstances, situation

The Chinese Revolution

Sources 12–15 relate to Question 4.

Source 12

The extract below is from a November 1944 report by United States diplomat John Davies, describing the growth of the Chinese Communist Party. The report was based on eyewitness observations of the Yan'an Soviet (Yenan Soviet).

The Communists have survived ten years of civil war and seven years of Japanese offensives ... They have survived and they have grown ... [Since] 1937 ... they have expanded to [control] about 850,000 square kilometers with a population of approximately 90 million. And they will continue to grow.

The reason for this phenomenal vitality¹ and strength is ... mass support, mass participation. The communist governments and armies are the first ... in modern Chinese history to have positive and widespread popular support ... because the governments and armies are genuinely of the people.

...

... They will also probably extend their political influence throughout the rest of the country—for they are the only group in China possessing a program with positive appeal to the people.

Source: US Department of State Office of the Historian, 'Memorandum by the Second Secretary of Embassy in China (Davies)', *Foreign Relations of the United States: Diplomatic Papers, 1944, China*, vol. VI, doc. 486, US Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1967, <<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v06/d486>>

¹**phenomenal vitality** – great energy

Source 13

A historical interpretation, published in 2006, of the importance of the Yan'an Soviet (Yenan Soviet)

Mao had discovered the key to power in the Chinese countryside. This lay in his feeling for the mentality, needs, and interests of the common people. The “mass line” which he advocated was genuinely concerned to have the revolution guided and supported by the common people ... The people must be carefully listened to, the better to recruit, mobilize¹, and control them.

...

... For the long term, he steadily developed the party organization, including its control over intellectuals. The Yan'an rectification movement of 1942–1944 ... established the campaign style of mobilization, including individual isolation, terror, struggle, confession, humiliation, and subservience².

Source: JK Fairbank and M Goldman, *China: A New History*, 2nd enlarged edition, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge (MA), 2006, pp. 310 and 317

¹**mobilize** – organise and encourage to take action

²**subservience** – obedience

Source 14

The extract below is from a speech given by two professors at Shenyang Normal University on 10 June 1957, during the Hundred Flowers Campaign. This speech was printed in the Shenyang Daily newspaper the following day.

The absolute leadership¹ of the Party must be done away with ...

...

... The Constitution is a scrap of paper and the Party has no need to observe it ... As to freedom of assembly, association and publication, this is just something written in the Constitution; actually, citizens can only become obedient subjects or, to use a harsh word, slaves ...

... [A] system of general election campaigns should be put into effect alongside the abolition of the absolute leadership of the Party. The people should be allowed freely to organise new political parties and social bodies, and to put out publications so as to open the channels of public opinion², supervise the government ... and encourage them to oppose an undesirable *status quo*³ even if it meant opposition to the Communist Party ...

Source: R MacFarquhar (ed.), *The Hundred Flowers*, Stevens and Sons Limited, London, 1960, pp. 106 and 107

¹**absolute leadership** – total power

²**open the channels of public opinion** – encourage the public sharing of ideas

³***status quo*** – present situation

Source 15

A photograph showing Minister of Communications Zhang Bojun, seated front centre, being criticised by his staff at a rally in Beijing in July 1957



Source: unknown photographer; in M Lynch, *The People's Republic of China 1949–76*, 2nd edition, Hodder Education, London, 2008, p. 38

END OF SOURCES BOOK