



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y310

The Development of the Nation State: France

1498–1610

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



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| First name | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last name | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Centre number | | | | | | | Candidate number | | | | |

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

Section A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation about the impact of the Massacre of St Bartholomew (1572).

[30]

Passage A

For the rest of her life Catherine had to contend with the consequences of the Massacre. Its immediate effects were the frustration of Catherine's work of conciliation since 1570, the resumption of civil war and the political failure of the Bourbon marriage, which became an embarrassment. There were more far-reaching effects, which resulted from the hardening attitude of the Protestants. They began to exploit the disruptive ambitions of the King's brother Alençon and were to produce, as Charles IX lay dying, one of the most dangerous situations Catherine ever had to face. The Massacre, for which they blamed the crown, caused them to evolve a more elaborate organisation, defensive in origin, the nascent 'state within a state', which matured about 1575. This led to a gradual divergence between them and honest believers, who were fairly easily satisfied with reasonable terms, as long as these were honoured. This partial divergence of interest between the leadership and the rank and file (which became more marked towards the end of the century), resulted in a decrease in emphasis on the cause of religion, the only effective bond of unity. This led to fragmentation and the emergence of malcontents who were bound to dispute the division of gains. Quarrels intensified and unstable alliances were formed for ill-defined purposes. Civil war, previously conducted for at least some distinguishable reasons, began to yield to anarchy, unrestrained and unpredictable.

Adapted from: N.M. Sutherland, *Catherine de Medici and the Ancient Regime*, published in 1966

Passage B

The King's complete loss of control over what were meant to be limited and legal executions showed how slight was his authority and what terrifying power the mob possessed. The Queen Mother also understood how the Massacre, originally driven by religious passions, had quickly spun out of control and had become a popular uprising of angry despair by people who felt little or no fear of royal retribution. It is possible to see it as a portent of what was to come in the French Revolution. Although it is impossible to say with any accuracy how many people perished in what was later called the 'Season of St. Bartholomew' in Paris and its aftermath in the provinces, the death toll throughout the kingdom was considerable. A high percentage of the may have been killed as a result of general discontent, the 'haves' killed by the 'have-nots'. The Duke of Guise tried to calm the mob, but even he, the Catholic hero of Paris, could do nothing. He argued that Charles should make a public declaration that the original executions were by the sovereign's command. This would contradict early royal declarations that the Massacre arose from the blood feud between the Houses of Guise and Châtillon and that the atrocities were carried out by lawless thugs and criminals. Catherine soon appreciated that the real victims were the monarchy and herself. Once Charles IX admitted responsibility for the killing of their leaders, the Protestants would withdraw their allegiance.

Adapted from: L. Frieda, *Catherine de Medici: A Biography*, published in 2005

Section B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

2* To what extent was the reign of Henry II (1547–1559) the major turning point in the development of France as a nation state in the period 1498–1610?

[25]

3* 'Weak royal control of the provinces consistently undermined the development of France as a nation state.' How far do you agree with this view in relation to the period 1498–1610?

[25]

4* Assess the reasons why civil war occurred in France between 1562 and 1598 but not in the period from 1498 to 1561.

[25]

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