



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 6 October 2021 – Morning

A Level History A

Y310/01 The Development of the Nation State: France 1498–1610

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION

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

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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 of the role of Catherine de' Medici and the Guise faction in the St Bartholomew's Day massacres of 1572. [30]

Passage A

Catherine's new policy employed a suspension of internal disagreement and a war against Spain in alliance with the heretics of England and the Netherlands. This would have been a daring, and yet in a way a traditional plan. Catherine, however, withdrew her support almost before it was under way. The reason was as follows. Coligny had come to court in 1571 and Charles IX had fallen completely under his influence and had allowed him to organise a Huguenot expedition against the Spanish. The troops met disaster. Coligny had to be removed.

Catherine moved swiftly. In August 1572 all the nobility were in Paris for the wedding of her daughter. There can be little doubt that she organised the Guise family to carry out their blood feud and assassinate Coligny. Unfortunately for Catherine, Coligny, shot from a window, was only wounded and the King supported the demand for a full inquiry. It seemed to the Queen Mother that the only way to maintain her influence was to conceal the lesser crime by a greater. Charles was persuaded of the existence of a Huguenot plot against him. A general slaughter of Huguenots in Paris took place, arranged by the Duke of Guise, with royal approval. The news spread to the provinces where many towns followed suit. Coligny died and so did many Huguenots in Paris, and many more in the rest of France.

Adapted from: P. J. Helm, History of Europe 1450–1660, published in 1961.

Passage B

By 1572 relations between Catholics and Huguenots in France had deteriorated. Massacres had already occurred. Personal resentment also created tension. Not only had the Guise faction fallen from favour at court, but also Coligny was readmitted to the King's Council in September 1571. He also received a large pension. The Guise faction hated Coligny for two reasons; firstly, because he was a Huguenot; secondly, because he was implicated in the assassination of Francis, Duke of Guise in February 1563. Initially it would seem that the Guise faction was responsible for the assassination attempt on Coligny. A judicial inquiry revealed the involvement of Henry, Duke of Guise. However, the issue of foreign policy might suggest that the Guise faction did not act alone. Circumstantial evidence would suggest that Catherine and Charles IX worked with Henry of Guise. Evidence would also suggest that the assassination attempt on Coligny was the attempt to kill one man, not the prelude to more general murder. However, the Council feared Huguenot reprisals and decided on a pre-emptive strike. The major factor in this decision was the existence of a Huguenot force just outside Paris.

Adapted from: D. Murphy, M. Tillbrook and P. Walsh-Atkins, Europe 1450–1661, published in 2000.

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SECTION B

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

- 2*** 'The French nation state developed more in the period from 1498 to 1559 than in the period from 1559 to 1610.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 3*** To what extent did the French nobility limit royal power in France in the period from 1498 to 1610? **[25]**
- 4*** To what extent did warfare hold back the development of the French nation state in the period from 1498 to 1610? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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