



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y313

The Ascendancy of France 1610–1715

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



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 of the causes of the Fronde (1648–1653).

[30]

Passage A

The revolts were a series of crises between king and aristocracy. The Crown had sought to encroach upon the interests of the aristocracy in a more daring way than probably ever before. In part, the unrest was caused by the weakness of the Crown during the minority of Louis XIV. This provided the typical and traditional situation for an outbreak of disorder. But now there was the resentment at the rule of a woman, moreover there was also the unpopularity of the leading minister, Mazarin, who was seen as being close to the queen. It is uncertain whether they were actually lovers or whether they were at any time secretly married, but it seems they were fond of each other. Although Mazarin had dealt with noble plots in the same repressive way as Richelieu, Mazarin was a foreigner and did not have the basic knowledge of France that Richelieu had gained as a bishop. With the old argument that it was evil ministers imposing changes on a young king, and that *Parlement* was the defender of liberty against oppression, unrest broke out. The revolts expressed the uneasy relationship between Crown and the ruling order which had already existed, but they also suggested that political stability was only possible if radical changes took place in the system of government.

Adapted from: D. Murphy et.al, *Europe, 1450–1661: A-level (Flagship History)*, published in 2000

Passage B

The main cause of the Fronde was money. An attempt to raise more to wage war by taxing towns, which were normally exempt from tax, had failed in 1644. It only appeared to cause unnecessary concern amongst reasonably loyal people. The only alternative was making peace, which was not on Mazarin's agenda. Mazarin cared little for the provinces and rural France. In order to get the cash he increased the farming of taxes on a large scale and added greater ruthlessness to the methods used by Richelieu. The final straw for many came in late 1647 and early 1648: deeply involved in the negotiations surrounding the Peace of Westphalia, and desperately short of money, Mazarin tried to compel the *Parlement de Paris* to accept new taxes. In spite of a *lit de justice*, which demanded obedience, the *Parlement* still refused. A leading cause of the opposition of *Parlement* was the disgruntlement of officials whose pockets were being increasingly entered by an impoverished government. An important element in the Fronde, and an important factor in sustaining it throughout, was the opposition of offended and desperate office-holders and courtiers, slighted by a government which found itself having to trample on privilege in order to pay its way.

Adapted from: G.R. Treasure, *Seventeenth Century France*, published in 1966

Section B

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

2* How far were French kings absolute monarchs in the period from 1610 to 1715?
[25]

3* How effectively did French governments deal with religious issues in the period 1610 to 1715?
[25]

4* 'France was at its most powerful in Europe in 1659.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1610 to 1715?
[25]

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Passage B: Adapted from: Treasure, G.R. (1966), Seventeenth Century France. Rivingtons, UK.

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