



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 21 May 2019 – Afternoon

A Level History A

Y313/01 The Ascendancy of France 1610–1715

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any **two** questions in Section B.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

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. [30]

Passage A

This series of damaging internal disturbances [The Fronde] were a reaction by the French people – noble, middle class and peasant – against the internal and external policies of Richelieu and Louis XIII. The main cause was money. An attempt to raise more to wage war by taxing towns which were normally exempt from tax, failed in 1644. It only appeared to cause unnecessary concern amongst reasonably loyal people. The only alternative – making peace was not on Mazarin's agenda – was to increase the *taille*. Mazarin cared as little for the provinces and rural France as Richelieu did. In order to get cash he increased the farming of taxes on a large scale and added greater ruthlessness to what Richelieu had done before. Mazarin was a foreigner and did not have the basic knowledge of rural France, which Richelieu gained as a bishop.

It had been hoped that a change of monarch and first minister might mean an end to the war and lower taxes. Now resentment of the rule of a woman, aided by an Italian, grew. 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* of Paris to accept new taxes. In spite of a *lit de justice*, which demanded obedience, the *Parlement* of Paris still opposed. This was tantamount to a revolution, and was a signal to the rest of France.

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

Passage B

The Fronde originated in a clash between *fonctionnaires** of the state. At first the opposition was concerned only with fiscal issues, but it was soon driven to demand constitutional guarantees. The aggressive actions of the Queen and Mazarin provoked all the main outbreaks of popular violence and allowed anarchy to spread throughout France.

Between 1647 and 1653 five consecutive years of bad harvests brought about a rise in deaths and a catastrophic fall in births. Many peasants were crushed by debts and lost their land to their creditors, and ruined nobles sold their estates to the rising bourgeois. The price of wheat in Paris, taking that of 1640 as 100, reached 295 in 1649, and 305 in 1652; by 1654 it had dropped to 107. The misery of famine and disease was much greater wherever armies went.

Hatred of Mazarin was a common factor in nearly all the outbreaks, but he himself increased this by his peculiar handling of the crisis. The *Parlement's* programme of reforms can hardly be called revolutionary – it was in part reactionary. The only aim of the leaders was to control the King. When the Parisian mob shouted for '*Le Roi seul*' they were expressing the hopes of France, a king really able to rule.

**Fonctionnaires* – those who work for the state.

Adapted from: W. E. Brown, *The First Bourbon Century in France*, published in 1971.

SECTION B

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

- 2*** How effectively did ministers deal with the domestic problems they faced in the period from 1610 to 1715? **[25]**
- 3*** 'Unrest was more serious during the reign of Louis XIV than Louis XIII.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 4*** To what extent did the aims of French foreign policy change during the period 1610 to 1715? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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