

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2F The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715

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Wednesday 3 June 2020    Morning    Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2F.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 60 minutes on Question 01
  - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From the will of Louis XIII dated April 1643, one month before his death.

The office of regent is one of great importance and responsibility. The welfare and glory of the great kingdom of France depend upon the person in charge of it. The duties of a regent must be well discharged. The Queen may not have the necessary knowledge to be able to govern our kingdom through the great and important events which are happening to this country. Such skills are only gained through long experience. 5

Therefore, we have decided that the best way forward is to name several people as a Council of Regency and to appoint them to specific roles within our government. The Council will be under Her Majesty's authority but all decisions about state affairs will be made after the members of the Council have given their views. In addition, these decisions will be settled by a majority of votes of the councillors. Her Majesty cannot alter the membership of the Council unless a member dies. 10

**Source B**

From a speech made by King Louis XIII's younger brother, Gaston, duc d'Orléans, to the Parlement of Paris during a lit de justice, 19 May 1643.

Every person in France must sympathise with Her Majesty the Queen in her deep sorrow at the death of her husband, and approve her conduct. On the previous Saturday, in the presence of the deputies of the Parlement I stated my satisfaction and indeed my conviction that all the honours and privileges of a regent should belong to the Queen. I think this is not just because she is the King's mother but due to her own virtue. 5

The regency had been given to her by the choice of King Louis XIII and the consent of Parlement. A declaration to this effect has been registered in the high court in his presence. Therefore, I propose only to take whatever part in public affairs that it might please Her Majesty to give me. Further, I propose that the Regency Council as established by King Louis XIII should be dissolved, with the assent of Parlement, and a new arrangement be made. 10

**Source C**

From the memoirs of Omer Talon, chief legal adviser to the Paris Parlement, written shortly after the events described. Talon spoke on Parlement's behalf to approve the Regency Council, 1643.

With the deaths of Cardinal Richelieu in December 1642 and the King on 14 May 1643, the Queen was declared regent. Everybody believed that the change of government would bring about a great transformation in how the country was governed. She recalled all who had been exiled or out of favour during Richelieu's ministry. She was sympathetic because she had suffered similar misfortune and had only been able to survive due to her position as Queen. People expected the ruin of Cardinal Richelieu's family, relatives and his financiers who possessed all the wealth of the state. This did not happen because Cardinal Mazarin became the Queen's first and absolute minister. He openly and loudly protected the Richelieu family and supporters because he was obliged to the former minister for becoming a Cardinal. Moreover, the treasury was opened up as the Queen and Mazarin satisfied all who were useful to them with money, including those exiles who demanded the return of their offices.

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|---|---|--|
| 0 | 1 | With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the formation of the Regency Council in 1643. |
|---|---|--|

**[30 marks]****Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** To what extent was the decline of Spanish power the reason for France's success in the War of Devolution in the years 1667 to 1668? **[25 marks]**

**0 3** To what extent were the costs of war responsible for the financial problems of France in the years 1688 to 1697? **[25 marks]**

**0 4** 'The War of the Spanish Succession was more successful for French interests outside Europe than within Europe itself.'  
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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