

Past-paper walk-through

The French Revolution ■ 5.4

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2024 Set 2 Q1

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2024 Set 2 ■ Q1

“The republican ideal of virtue was based on a notion of fraternity between men in which women were relegated to the realm of domesticity. Public virtue required virility, which required in turn the violent rejection of aristocratic degeneracy and any intrusion of the feminine into the public. . . . Through their rejection of [Marie Antoinette] and what she stood for, Republican men could reinforce their bonds to one another. . . . [Marie Antoinette] was perhaps also an object lesson for other women who might wish to exercise through popular sovereignty the kind of rule that the Queen had exercised through Royal prerogative. The Republican brothers who had overthrown the King and taken upon themselves his mantle did not want their sisters to follow their lead.” Lynn Hunt, American historian, article published in 1991

Using the excerpt, respond to parts a, b, and c.

Question 1

- (a)** Describe an argument the author makes in the excerpt about the French Revolution.
- (b)** Describe a development prior to the French Revolution that influenced the views on the role of women described in the excerpt.
- (c)** Describe a development of the late 1900s that may have influenced the author's perspective.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- Describe an argument the author makes in the passage about the French Revolution. (1 point) — accept any: The French Revolution largely excluded women as it developed, particularly in its more radical phases.; The French Revolution emphasized masculinity and bonds between men.; Marie Antoinette became a stand-in for arguments for the exclusion of women from public life.; Marie Antoinette served as a lesson for women who sought political power.; French Revolutionary leaders reinforced notions of masculinity and virility.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- Describe a development prior to the French Revolution that influenced the view of women described in the passage. (1 point) — accept any: The arguments made by Rousseau, and others, for the exclusion of women from politics were similar to the attacks on Marie Antoinette.; The Renaissance emphasized that the concept of civic humanism applied only to men and denied a public sphere for women either in politics or the arts.; The Scientific Revolution asserted that differences in male and female physiology indicated that women had reduced intellectual abilities in comparison to men.; Religious values [Catholicism, Protestantism] reinforced traditional values about the proper social roles for men and women.; Suspicion about the involvement of women in the practice of witchcraft led men

Solution 1

to question the ability of women to perform effectively in positions of authority.; Enlightenment writings and the role of salons encouraging women to be active in exercising popular sovereignty.; Enlightenment print culture was mostly created by men and mostly read by men.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Describe development in the late 1900s that may have influenced the author's perspective (1 point) — accept any: Women increasingly took high political office in Europe, such as Margaret Thatcher in Britain.; Feminism challenged accepted ideas of women's role in the home and in public life.; Economic changes affected women's roles in the workforce and in family life.; Social changes such as the introduction of birth control offered women greater control over their bodies and greater access into the professional world.; Gains in the early twentieth century such as suffrage paved the way for women to seek political office after the Second World War.; Movements for civil rights and gay rights of the late twentieth

Solution 1

century influenced feminist movements that challenged discrimination on the basis of gender.