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# A-level HISTORY

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

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Wednesday 13 June 2018 Afternoon 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 a Royal edict issued in November 1661 and sent to all French parlements to be registered.

There could be no more just task than to make our subjects feel once again the effects of peace and public tranquillity. This is why we have decided to take over the care and direction of the finances ourselves and to study in detail all the receipts and expenses of our kingdom, believing that there is no other means so effective for re-establishing order and preventing waste. We have recognised that the disorders and malpractices which have been committed for several years in the running of our finances have produced all the evils which our people have suffered, and have caused the extraordinary taxes which have had to be imposed on them in order to meet the pressing needs of the state. We have therefore resolved to impose exemplary and severe punishments on all those accused of embezzlement in our finances. To this end, we have established a Chamber of Justice composed of officers from our sovereign courts.

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**Source B**

From 'Memoirs and Political Reflections on the Reign of Louis XIV', by an anonymous noble courtier, written in 1664 but published in 1666.

Colbert should beware that by trying to enable France to do without goods from foreign states, these states do not do the same to us. Certain other countries already go elsewhere to obtain most of the things they used to get from our provinces. One of the principal causes of the lack of money in France, while there is a great abundance of grain and wine, is because the Dutch no longer buy up France's surplus production. This is because our commercial behaviour towards them makes them realise that we will take nothing from them in exchange except cash. In short, we must risk ruin and lose all our solid and real assets in order to capture the ten or twelve percent which the Dutch earn from what they sell us. Colbert has also resolved if we are so fortunate as to enjoy peace, to abolish the remaining office holders and completely reduce the nobility to begging so that commerce may flourish in a hundred years' time.

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**Source C**

From a private memorandum to the King from Jean-Baptiste Colbert, 22 July 1666.

Your majesty has four sorts of expenses: first and most important at present is sea warfare; second, foreign affairs; third, land warfare; fourth, the internal expenses of the kingdom, the pleasures and amusements of your majesty.

I am convinced that the first two must carry on as now at the expense of the others as the others depend on the first two. The third should continue when possible or if the times require it, but it could well be reduced somewhat until it becomes necessary. The fourth must be reduced as rigorously as possible because, as the saying goes, you should never spend anything on unnecessary things but you should always be prepared to spend millions when it is a matter of your glory. A useless royal feast costing a million écus\* gives me incredible pain; but when it is a question of giving millions in gold to help one of our allies facing a rebellion, I would sell all my goods to provide the necessary funds.

\* An écu is a unit of French currency.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the economic and financial problems of the French monarchy between 1661 and 1666.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'Louis XIV's decision to revoke the Edict of Nantes in 1685 was taken primarily on religious grounds.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 3** To what extent did Louis XIV's authority weaken in the years 1685 to 1697?

[25 marks]

**0 4** To what extent did the Peace of Ryswick of 1697 damage France's international position?

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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