



# Cambridge Pre-U

## HISTORY

9769/57

Paper 5g Special Subject: Napoleon and Europe, 1795–1815

October/November 2020

2 hours

You must answer on the answer booklet/paper.

You will need: Answer booklet/paper

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Section B: answer **one** question.
- If you have been given an answer booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on all the work you hand in.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- You will be marked on analysis and critical evaluation in your answers. You should also show an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods, where appropriate.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together. Do **not** use staples, paper clips or glue.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

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## Section A

## Nominated topic: The role of Britain in the Napoleonic Wars, 1799–1815

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting on the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

**A** *A British private soldier gives an account of the Battle of Vitoria in a journal written at the time.*

The soldiers of ‘the Great Nation’, Napoleon’s ‘invincibles’ were totally defeated by a half-starved army of British and Portuguese. The enemy had decoyed us to Vittoria to give us a good drubbing. Such was King Joseph’s confidence that he had ordered scaffolding to be built for the people to see him defeat the English, and had provided wine for his spectators. But long before dark on 21 June the French had fled and we were drinking at their expense.

On the morning of that day we had advanced. The company I belonged to was ordered to search a wood on the right flank. We stole some sheep we found there. We ran into an old shepherd and took everything he had – a loaf, cheese and wine. We learnt that the regiment had taken fourteen guns. We dashed forward and drove off some enemy from their positions. When we halted for the night there was a scene of confusion; we were surrounded by guns, mules and baggage. The dead and dying lay scattered all around us.

Private William Wheeler, Journal, 1 July 1813.

**B** *An English cartoonist portrays Wellington’s victory at Vitoria in 1813. Wellington is shown in the upper left hand side and Joseph Bonaparte is seen fleeing in the upper right.*



George Cruickshank, *The Battle of Vittoria*, 1813.

- C** *Writing to his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon is hopeful of a recovery after the defeat at Waterloo.*

All is by no means lost. I suppose I shall have 150 000 men available when my forces are once more united. The well-affected among the National Guards will give me another 100 000 men and I shall obtain 50 000 more reserves. Thus I will have 300 000 soldiers to oppose the enemy. I shall raise 100 000 more conscripts and arm them with muskets. I shall call up the whole male populations of the provinces. I shall crush the enemy and obtain the time necessary for Paris and France to do its duty. The Austrians advance slowly and the Prussians are afraid of the country people and do not dare push on rapidly. There is still time to repair all the damage done at Waterloo.

Napoleon, Letter, 19 June 1815.

- D** *A British writer who claimed to be a 'near observer' at Waterloo writes about the battle soon after it took place.*

Accustomed as we were to victory, on land as well as at sea, since the rise of Wellington, we did not dream that victory at Waterloo would be so speedy and decisive. The glory of all former battlefields seems to fade before that of Waterloo. All the previous actions of our great commander, Wellington, from Vimeiro to Toulouse in the Peninsular War seemed to be mere preludes to the last and greatest of triumphs. The Duke showed his usual personal courage. At one moment he was advised that he was exposing himself to danger by going too far forward. He replied 'I know I am, but I must see what they are doing, or die.'

John Booth, *The Battle of Waterloo*, 1815.

- E** *A modern historian considers the importance of the British military efforts in the Peninsular War.*

The Peninsula was the British army's principal arena of operations. However, the entire conflict in the Peninsula, when seen in the context of the Napoleonic Wars as a whole, was something of a sideshow. Crucial though it was to the British, it was never accorded much significance either by Napoleon or his other enemies. Thus, in April 1811 Lord Liverpool, the future British prime minister, wrote to Wellington that 'We are determined not to be diverted from the Peninsula. If we can strike a blow, we can strike it there'. At the same time, Metternich, the Austrian foreign minister, was advising his master, the Austrian Emperor, that even the expulsion of the French from Spain would hardly affect the main course of the war. The British government constantly dreaded that its allies in Eastern and Central Europe, and even in Spain, would desert it. In 1813 the British were striving to make their voice heard in the discussions regarding the terms on which peace might be concluded with France, and could only emphasise their recent victory at Vittoria and the importance of their financial subsidies to their allies.

David Gates, *The Napoleonic Wars 1803–1815*, published in 2003.

- (a) To what extent does Document B confirm the evidence in Document A about events just before, during and after the Battle of Vittoria? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the British army had only a limited impact on the course of the Napoleonic Wars? In making your evaluation you should refer to contextual knowledge, as well as to the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

**Section B**

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 'Bonaparte rose to power as First Consul mainly because of the weaknesses of the Directory.'  
Did he? [30]
  
- 3 What best explains why Napoleon decided to become emperor in 1804? [30]
  
- 4 How well did the Congress of Vienna deal, in 1814 and in 1815, with the problems it faced in reorganising Europe? [30]

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