
HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/57

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

May/June 2019

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.



Section A**Nominated topic: The rise to power of Napoleon c.1795–1799**

- 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 *Napoleon Bonaparte's message to the army of Egypt before the campaign of 1798.*

Soldiers!

You are about to embark on a conquest that will change the world. Its effect on civilisation and world trade will be incalculable. You are about to inflict on England the greatest blow she can suffer.

You will find among the people of Egypt customs which are unlike any in Europe. You will have to become accustomed to these. Looting dishonours us, destroys our resources and makes enemies of the people whom it is in our interest to have as friends. The first city we shall see was built by Alexander the Great. At each step of the way we shall see evidence of feats fit to inspire the admiration of Frenchmen. We must respect that.

The people among whom we are going are Muslims. Their first article of faith is that there is no god but God, and Mohammed is his prophet. Do not contradict them. Act towards them in the same way as we acted towards the Italians and Jews. Remember that the Roman legions protected all religions.

No individual soldier is authorised to confiscate goods from the local people without specific authorisation from his commander acting on direct orders from the Commander-in-chief.

Bonaparte, Message, 1 July 1798.

B *In an anonymous article in a scholarly journal, Bonaparte explains to the French public the nature of his conquests.*

We no longer live in times when conquerors only knew how to destroy what they had taken by force of arms; when the lust for gold dictated their actions; when devastation, slaughter, persecution and intolerance accompanied them wherever they went. Today, by contrast, the French, though powerful in their armed forces, respect not only the laws, the customs, the habits, but even the prejudices of the people whose territory they occupy. While recognising that forceful actions may be necessary, the French leave it to time, reason and education to introduce changes that the enlightenment of the present century has brought about.

The Decade, 1 October 1798.

- C** *The French army paymaster, later to be ennobled by Napoleon and made his treasurer, describes the aftermath of Bonaparte's capture of Jaffa. The killings described took place on 8–10 March 1799.*

By order of General Bonaparte, the Egyptian, Moroccan and Turkish prisoners were formed into separate groups. Next day the Moroccans were all led down to the seashore, and two of our battalions began to shoot them. The only way that they could try to save themselves was by throwing themselves in the sea, so they tried to swim away, but there was easily time to shoot them. We hoped that the executions would not be renewed, but next day 1200 Turkish artillerymen, who had been kept in front of General Bonaparte's tent for two days without food, were led off to be slaughtered. Our men were told not to waste ammunition, and they worked up enough ferocity to run them through with their bayonets. Among the victims we found many children who had clung to their fathers as they were both killed. This example will teach our enemies that they cannot count on French decency; but sooner or later the blood of these 3000 victims will be avenged on us.

Guillaume Peyrusse, letter to his mother, March 1799.

- D** *Bonaparte's leading military surgeon writes about a conversation on what to do with sick and wounded men who faced 500 miles of retreat from Acre to Egypt in 1799.*

Bonaparte summoned me to his tent where he was alone with Berthier, his chief of staff. 'If I were in your place, I would end the suffering of our plague victims by giving them a lethal dose of opium.' I replied simply, 'My duty, as I see it, is to preserve life.' He said he did not expect others to do anything he would not do himself. He said he was, before anything else, charged with preserving his army and for that reason our sick who cannot be taken with us must be prevented from being left to the mercy of the Turkish swords.

He said: 'I am not seeking to overcome your scruples, but I believe I can find people who will better appreciate my intentions.' In the end, however, the retreat was undertaken in meticulous order with the plague victims taken with the army.

René-Nicolas Desgenettes, *Memories of the end of the eighteenth century*, published 1835.

- E** *A modern historian describes Bonaparte's visit to plague victims in his army at Jaffa in March 1799.*

Napoleon took a characteristic view of the plague; 'it is most dangerous for those who are afraid of it.' His presence brought great consolation. He made the doctors treat several patients in front of him. They were piercing the swellings in order to treat the disease. He touched those who seemed most distressed in order to prove to them that they had an ordinary illness, not one that was contagious. Desgenettes (the surgeon) who was no friend of Napoleon, confirmed what happened. He described how for more than an hour and a half, maintaining an attitude of complete calm, Napoleon witnessed every detail of the patients' treatment. Finding himself in a crowded ward, overfilled with patients, he helped lift, or rather carry, the hideous corpse of a soldier whose tattered uniform was befouled by the spontaneous bursting of an enormous abscessed swelling.

Paul Strathern, *Napoleon in Egypt*, 2008.

- (a)** To what extent does Document A corroborate the evidence in Document B about Napoleon's views about conquest? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that Napoleon had shown greatness in his leadership before gaining power in November 1799? In making your evaluation you should refer to contextual knowledge, as well as to all 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 How much did Napoleon's military successes in Europe after 1799 depend on factors beyond his control? [30]
- 3 Did diplomacy play the most significant role in Britain's struggle against Napoleon? [30]
- 4 'Napoleon's European possessions were an Empire in name only.' Discuss. [30]

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