Specimen question paper - Religion

**1** Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

The Wars of Religion were not continuous. There were several periods of peace. Also

the wars did not affect every region of France in the same way. In 1593–4 peasants

began to band together to prevent the pillaging of both the armies of Henry IV and of the

Catholic League. In south-west France, the peasants made demands that included

lowering taxes. In May 1594, as many as 20 000 peasants assembled to put forward their

grievances; these peasant uprisings helped to convince Henry IV that an end to the civil

wars was important to prevent social upheaval. By 1598 he was able to buy off the

leaders of the Catholic League and end the conflict between Catholics and Huguenots

with the Edict of Nantes.

Adapted from D MURPHY, M TILLBROOK and P WALSH-ATKINS, *Europe 1450–1661*, 2000

**Source B**

With the death of Henry III (1589) about half the royal army refused to continue

fighting. Henry IV’s forces were so depleted that he had to retreat to Normandy. Henry

then set about driving the League army southwards, defeating them at Ivry in 1590 and

laying siege to Paris. This obliged Philip II of Spain to commit himself more directly to

the struggle. When this failed, he instructed the Duke of Parma to invade France. Parma

crossed the frontier and broke the siege of Paris. Henry IV was aware that the sword

alone would not win him the kingdom. On 23 December 1593, Henry formally abjured

the Protestant heresy. With the king now a Catholic the enthusiasm of his enemies

rapidly ebbed away.

Adapted from M RADY, *France: Renaissance and Recovery 1494–1610* , 1988**Source C**

The Huguenots were encouraged after some hard bargaining to accept the Edict of

Nantes in 1598. Liberty of conscience was granted and Protestant worship allowed only

on the estates of Huguenot nobles, at places decided by rival commissioners and

wherever the Huguenots could prove that it had been openly practised in 1596 and 1597.

Bi-partisan courts (*chambres mi-parties)* were to be set up in the parlements to judge

lawsuits involving protestants. However, Huguenots were not allowed to impose taxes,

build fortifications, levy troops or hold political assemblies. The edict encountered stiff

opposition from the parlement as the king might have expected. By degrees he got his

way.

Adapted from R J KNECHT, *The Rise and Fall of Renaissance France,* 1996

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to the

reason why the Wars of Religion came to an end by 1598. *(12 marks)*

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the Edict of Nantes in enabling Henry IV to establish his authority in

France by 1610? *(24 marks)*

January 2009 - Religion

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

**1** Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Arriving at Nantes in April 1598, Henry signed the famous edict of toleration

known as the Edict of Nantes. Did the edict permit the Huguenots to create a

‘state within a state’ as has often been said? In one key way it did. No other

group had the right to garrison fortified places for any reason other than royal

service. The strongest argument against this point is that the privilege of having

the places of safety was to last for only eight years. The religious toleration

clauses, on the other hand, were to last forever. Among French Catholics the edict

produced a storm of protest. Henry could afford to be stubborn about the edict

because the international situation had changed dramatically. The death of

the Spanish king, Philip II, meant that the Leaguers, who might have rebelled

against the Edict of Nantes, could not count on Spanish aid.

Adapted from F BAUMGARTNER, *France in the Sixteenth Century*, 1995

**Source B** The Edict of Nantes did not establish an independent Huguenot organisation which functioned quite separately from the rest of France. Huguenots were still bound to follow the laws of the land and discussion of all political matters was denied to the Huguenot national and provincial assemblies. Finally, Huguenots still had to obey the king. At most, the Edict of Nantes created a group of persons holding special privileges. This status depended solely on the Edict of Nantes, a decree of the crown which could be revoked at the king’s pleasure.

Adapted from M RADY, *France 1494–1610*, 1996

**Source C** From a speech by Henry IV to the leading townsmen of Toulouse in 1599

I wish that those of the Protestant religion should be able to live at peace in my

realm and be eligible for all posts, not because they are Protestants, but because

they have faithfully served me and the French crown. I wish to be obeyed, and

that my edict shall be published and implemented throughout my kingdom. It is

high time that all of us, drunk with war, sobered up.

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the

rights given to Huguenots in the Edict of Nantes. *(12 marks)*

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How successful was the Edict of Nantes in creating religious peace in France by 1610?

*(24 marks)*

June 09 - Nobles

**Source A** After 1594, duelling became a significant problem. The monarchy began to object to duelling once it began to appreciate how many of its fighting men were killed and how

duels were a continuation of the noble’s right of private war. In 1602, Henry IV issued

an edict condemning duelling; the penalty was death. The president of the Parlement

of Toulouse reported that in the first 6 months of the edict, it had saved the lives of 300

noblemen. The search for ways to tame the nobility led to the creation of academies for

young noblemen. The monarchy aided these academies with money hoping that they

would place limits on the traditional independence of the nobility.

Adapted from F J Baumgartner, *France in the Sixteenth Century*, 1995

**Source B** Although France had been involved in civil war on and off since 1561, there was,

in reality, little danger in 1589 that the state would revert to a collection of feudal

principalities giving only limited obedience to the king. The struggles among the three

great noble families – Bourbon, Guise and Montmorency – concerned control of the

central government and not its destruction. Too many people had too large a stake

in the government to allow it to break apart. They had massive clientage networks

of people who worked in the army, the judiciary and elsewhere. Government money

funded these networks.

Adapted from J B Collins, *The State in Early Modern France*, 1995

**Source C** The nobles of the Catholic League were handled with care. They were unable to

find any alternative ruler to Henry, whose conversion to Catholicism in 1593 had

undermined the whole basis of their opposition. Henry exploited their predicament by

meeting them individually to promise them pardon, pensions and titles. In winning over

his enemies, however, Henry forfeited the affection, and very nearly the loyalty, of the

Huguenots. His conversion had angered those who had genuinely fought for religious

principles, and the remainder were jealous of the generous pensions awarded to the

Catholic nobles.

Adapted from D Maland, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century*, 1982

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in Source A in relation to

the threat posed to the government of France by the nobles after the Wars of

Religion. *(12 marks)*

**0 2** Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was Henry’s treatment of the nobles in enabling him to establish his

authority in France during the 1590s? *(24 marks)*

reign. *(12 marks)*

January 2010 Royal authority/towns

**Source A** If he were ever going to win over all of Catholic France to support him as king, Henry recognised the necessity of winning the loyalty of Paris. By 1593, a

number of placards had already appeared in the capital calling for the immediate

recognition of the king. And Henry played upon this increasing popular support. He continued to use the carrot rather than the stick in dealing with all Leaguers

who negotiated a settlement. Brissac was rewarded by being made a marshal of

France. By the end of 1594, most of the major League towns in northern France

such as Abbeville, Bourges and Orleans submitted to the king.

Adapted from MP HOLT, *The French Wars of Religion, 1562–1629*, 1995

**Source B** Henry IV’s relations with the towns were important. At first he had to tread

cautiously, particularly in respect of League towns which had not recognised him

as king until he abandoned his Protestant faith in 1593. He confirmed their

privileges and even hinted that he might extend them. Once he had been

recognised as king, however, his policy became more aggressive. In December

1595, for instance, Henry personally nominated the mayor of Lyon and 12

aldermen. Lyon’s government became identical with that of Paris and a model for

other towns. When Nantes refused to elect his choice of mayor, Henry lost his

temper. ‘I will be obeyed in this’, he wrote. The officials the king imposed upon

the towns were doubtless loyal to the crown, but their influence on their fellow

citizens could be limited. Royal directives were sometimes ignored.

Adapted from RJ KNECHT, *The Rise and Fall of Renaissance France*, 1996

**Source C** Henry IV devoted his attention after 1600 to restoring royal authority. Many

historians regard the next ten years as the real foundation of royal absolutism in

France. The actual changes Henry brought about were subtle increases in royal

authority. Among them were placing royal tax officers in the provinces of

Dauphiné and Guienne, although his efforts to put them in other places failed. His

use of *chambres de justice* to root out corruption among the revenue officers was a

limited success. Henry never called the States-General.

Adapted from F J BAUMGARTNER, *France in the Sixteenth Century*, 1975

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to

Henry IV’s restoration of royal authority. *(12 marks)*

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important were the towns for Henry IV in achieving control of France? *(24 marks)*

June 2010 Henry and foreign policy

**Question 1**

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** In January 1589, the Sorbonne had pronounced Henry III deposed. It is hardly

surprising that Henry III’s deep unpopularity led to his assassination. On his deathbed,

Henry III recognised Henry of Navarre as his heir on condition that the new king

returned to Catholicism. The great majority of Catholics, however, opposed Henry IV’s

accession. For four years, Henry IV was the most famous Protestant ruler in Europe.

Yet his position was decidedly weak. Even his Protestant supporters were divided,

some fearing that the king would endanger the existence of the Huguenot party to

secure his throne.

Adapted from R Bonney, *The European Dynastic State*, 1991

**Source B** On August 2 1589, Henry of Navarre had become King of France. The Huguenots,

of course, recognised him as king, but when two days later, he issued a statement

promising to maintain the Catholic Church in its entirety, some of the Huguenot nobles

retired to their homes. More serious was the defection of a large number of Catholic

royalists. A protestant could never hope to rule France. In July 1593, Henry spent

a day being instructed in the Catholic religion. His absolution (forgiveness) by the

Church brought most of the remaining Leaguer nobles to his side. After it was issued

the international situation changed dramatically. The Peace of Vervins was accepted.

Philip II of Spain died shortly after he signed the treaty. This meant that the die-hard

Leaguers could not count on Spanish aid.

Adapted from F J Baumgartner, *France in the Sixteenth Century*, 1995

**Source C** Henry’s abjuration of the Protestant faith was the signal for many town governors

to declare their loyalty to him. But it did not come cheap. ‘Treaties of capitulation’

contained clauses which excluded Protestants from worship in a town. Sometimes

Henry agreed to settle a town’s debts. According to Sully, Henry spent between

30 and 32 million *livres* in ‘treaties for the recovery of the kingdom’. He was accused of

reducing the dignity of the monarchy by paying out such bribes, but, as he told Sully, he

would have had to pay ten times more to achieve the same result by the sword.

Adapted from R J Knecht, *The Rise and Fall of Renaissance France*, 1996

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from the views in **Source A** in relation to

Henry IV’s position in the years 1589 to 1593. *(12 marks)*

**0 2** Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was the death of Philip II of Spain in enabling Henry IV to establish

himself securely on the French throne by the end of 1598? *(24 marks)*

January 2011 peasant uprisings and nobles

**Question 1**

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

The most serious peasant uprisings occurred in the south-west of France. The rebellions of the Croquants began in the autumn of 1593. They called themselves the *tard-avises*, the latecomers. One group called on the peasants 'to take arms and destroy many noble chateaux . The secretary to the town council in Perigueux

5 reported, 'They openly speak of destroying the nobility and being free of everything . They saw privileges being heaped on the League nobles and cities and feared that, being the last in the queue for concessions, they would pay for the favours granted to others. In a sense they were correct in their fears. In 1594, Henry IV was hoping to raise about 21 million *livres* through the *taille* and a further 8 million by indirect taxes.

Adapted from M GREENGRASS, *France in the Age of Henry IV*, 1995

**Source 8**

Hostility to the nobility was not the main concern of the peasant movements, but they revealed that the local nobles were not behaving as good seigneurs should. In late 1593, vast assemblies of peasants began to meet, each of which may have numbered 40 000 men. They sent delegates to the king to ask for tax relief, but

5 they also organised for violence. In 1594, the royal council, having heard Croquant delegates, agreed not to collect the taxes which were in arrears and accepted that what peasants paid to local warlords would be regarded as payment of royal taxes.

Adapted from F J BAUMGARTNER, *France in the Sixteenth Century*, 1995

**Source C**

In a sense, the revolt of the Croquants may be seen as part of the general process of recovery by which Frenchmen of all kinds reassessed their allegiance to the Crown. Attempts have been made by historians to explain this recovery. For Mousnier, it

was largely the work of rich off ce-holders, anxious to have a stable government. For

5 other historians, it was the winning over of towns, or the rallying of the nobles to the Crown. Once Henry had shown his ability to maintain some degree of order, rich and poor alike had every interest in rallying around him, to put an end to four decades of strife.

Adapted from 0 BUISSERET, *Henry IV of France*, 1992

**0 1**  Use **Sources A** and **8** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source 8** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the

peasant uprisings in 1593 - 1594. *(12 marks)*

**0 2**  Use **Sources A**, **8** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important were the nobles in enabling Henry IV to establish himself as king by

1598? *(24 marks)*

June 2011 royal authority and conversion

**Question 1**

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

It was undoubtedly the case that Henry IV was well served by a variety of publishers

and propagandists. Some pamphleteers emphasised the absolute powers of the

king. More frequently they stressed his personal qualities: his chivalry, concern

for the poor, his patriotism and courage. Had he ended the siege of Paris to

avoid unnecessary suffering? For the Þ rst time, images of the king were used

with a political aim and put before a wide audience. The abjuration, the truce,

the coronation and the royal entries to Paris, Amiens, Lyon and Rouen provided

opportunities for impressive demonstrations of royal authority.

Adapted from M GREENGRASS, *France in the Age of Henry IV*, 1984

**Source B**

The achievement of the new king is all the more remarkable when considered

against the background of the complete collapse of authority during the preceding

period. Yet, the weakness of the crown under the last Valois kings may have

contributed to its revival under Henry IV. With the collapse of effective government

in large areas of France, only the monarchy remained as a potential source of order

and authority.

Henry IV was aware, however, that the sword alone would not win him the kingdom.

At the beginning of his reign, he therefore tried to draw Catholics away from the

League by promising to maintain and conserve the Catholic faith in its entirety,

without altering anything. A more determined commitment than this was needed,

however, to remove suspicions. Although Henry was ready to embrace the

Roman religion, he realised that French Catholics might regard his conversion with

suspicion. His timing was essential.

Adapted from M RADY, *France, Renaissance, Religion and Recovery, 1494.1610*, 1988

**Source C**

Adapted from the newsletters of the Fuggers, a merchant banking family

We have received news that the King of Navarre, on his birthday, was pronounced to

be a member of the Church of Rome. As a result, it was urged on the princes of the

Catholic League by the common people in Paris, as well as by Parlement, that peace

should be made. A general peace for three months was declared. Preachers shout

and rant from the pulpit and make an outcry that the king will not keep faith with the

Catholics. In Vivarais, Languedoc and other places, this peace has already been

greeted with great rejoicing. But the Spanish Ambassador and the Papal Legate

dislike this peace.

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to royal

authority at the beginning of Henry IV.s reign. *(12 marks)*

**0 2** Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was Henry.s conversion to Catholicism in securing his position as King of

France by 1594? *(24 marks)*