

VCE History: Revolutions 2016–2020

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE History Study Design 2016–2020* ('Units 3 and 4: Revolutions') is the document for the development of the examination. The study design includes a section on 'Characteristics of the study' (pages 10 and 11). All outcomes in 'Units 3 and 4: Revolutions' will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question book and an answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections. Each section will have questions on each of the four revolutions – America, France, Russia and China.

Section A will consist of three questions per revolution. One question will be derived from Area of study 1 – Causes of revolution. This question will consist of sub-parts and will involve analysis of visual and/or written sources. This question will be worth 20 marks. The remaining two questions will be derived from Area of study 2 – Consequences of revolution. These questions will be extended-answer questions worth a total of 20 marks. Section A will be worth a total of 40 marks.

Section B will consist of two questions per revolution. One question will be derived from Area of study 1 – Causes of revolution. This question will be an essay question worth 20 marks. The remaining question will be derived from Area of study 2 – Consequences of revolution. This question will consist of sub-parts and will involve analysis of visual and/or written sources. This question will be worth 20 marks. Section B will be worth a total of 40 marks.

Students must choose one revolution for Section A and a different revolution for Section B.

REVOLUTIONS (SPECIFICATIONS)

The examination will include questions that refer to visual and/or written sources. Section A and Section B will each include one to three sources per revolution. The sources may be presented in colour.

The total marks for the examination will be 80.

Answers to both sections are to be written in the answer book.

Criteria

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- construction of a coherent and relevant historical argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of historical knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- use of historical thinking concepts
- use of primary sources and historical interpretations as evidence

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE History: Revolutions examination:

- *VCE History Study Design 2016–2020* ('Units 3 and 4: Revolutions')
- *VCE History: Revolutions – Advice for teachers 2016–2020* (includes assessment advice)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2016–2020 accreditation period for VCE History: Revolutions, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Teachers and students should be aware of the characteristics of the study, including historical thinking and historical interpretations in VCE History, as described on pages 10 and 11 of the study design. In VCE History, evidence may be drawn from primary sources (including historical perspectives) and/or historical interpretations, and factual detail related to the key knowledge stated in the study design.

Further information about using sources as evidence is provided in the 'Historical thinking' section of the *VCE History: Revolutions – Advice for teachers 2016–2020* on pages 1–6.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the 'History: Revolutions – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over. It demonstrates a range of source configurations that could appear on the examination.

The VCAA does not publish answers to sample examinations.