

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Friday 23 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI04/1A**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1A: The Making of Modern Europe, 1805–71

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far do you agree with the view that the impact of Napoleon's defeat in Russia in 1812 was 'catastrophic and lasting' (Extract 1, line 3)?

Explain your answer using Extracts 1 and 2 and your knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(25)

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2** How accurate is it to say that there was significant change in the relationships between the European great powers in the years 1815–48?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3** How far do you agree that the failure of the 1848–49 revolutions in Germany and the Austrian Empire was mainly due to the weaknesses of the revolutionaries?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From N Nicolson, *Napoleon: 1812*, published in 1986.

On the map of Europe, Napoleon's position at the beginning of 1813 did not look too bad. However, the effect of Napoleon's defeat in Russia on his allies and on France was catastrophic and lasting. The impact took a little time to develop but within a year his whole Empire fell to pieces.

Napoleon failed to understand that his Russian campaign had so weakened the legend of his invincibility that all the anger he had aroused across Europe was beginning to become apparent. It began in Prussia, where events resulted in the Prussian king openly declaring war against their former ally, France. It also became clear that Napoleon had not realised that the Tsar of Russia believed that the campaign of 1812 was not yet finally over. The Tsar proclaimed a war of liberation in alliance with Prussia. 5 10

Despite clear French victories against the alliance in May 1813, Napoleon accepted an armistice because the campaign had revealed the inexperience of his newly recruited troops. The Austrian Chancellor Metternich acted as mediator. However, Napoleon refused a permanent peace. He viewed the loss of the Russian campaign as 'just a mere accident' and was angry that Metternich also apparently viewed the new French army as 'no more than children'. On 12 August, Austria declared war on France. The three powers – Austria, Russia and Prussia – were now allies against him. 15

Napoleon's fall was certainly hastened by his retreat from Moscow. 20



Although his invasion of Russia had ended so disastrously, Napoleon had no intention of giving up the fight. His abilities were still far from disappearing altogether. As soon as he reached Paris, he set to work to organise a 'new Grand Army' to oppose the counter-invasion he knew would soon take place. It was vital to act swiftly. 25

In fact, things were not so bad as they seemed. Half the casualties sustained in Russia were not French-born soldiers and the major losses were from the Napoleonic Empire and its allies – Bavarians, Saxons, Prussians, Poles and Italians who had been forced into the Grand Army. Napoleon's allies were once again summoned to provide fresh contributions, both of men and horses. 30
To replace the lost units of French troops, Napoleon called up the 1814 and 1815 classes of conscripts in advance. This gave him 300,000 fresh recruits. The cavalry, which had suffered most severely in the Russian campaign, was reorganised using new conscripts.

Napoleon's strategic plan for the 1813 campaign was to stop the Russian advance at the River Elbe. After three months of constant activity on the part of Napoleon, the new army began to take shape. In mid-April, Napoleon's offensive forces began to march northwards. 35

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Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: Napoleon:1812 by N Nicolson © Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986

Extract 2 from: Napoleon as Military Commander By J Marshall-Cornwall © Penguin, 2002

