Napoleon A2
France under Napoleon, 1799-1807: from Consulate to Empire; Napoleon’s domestic reforms.

The third bullet point relates to the birth of Napoleonic France and its development to 1807. Students should understand the process by which Napoleon consolidated his power between 1799 and 1804, the reasons for the Concordat in 1801 and the significance of the spate of reforms affecting administration, the economy, education and the law. Students will not be expected to study the wars against the Second and Third Coalitions, but should be aware of their domestic impact, for example the value to Napoleon of his victory at Marengo in strengthening his grip on power.

Section B Content Guidance.

b) Why did the Napoleonic Empire collapse in 1814?

The second controversy requires a study of the reasons for the defeat and collapse of the Napoleonic Empire between 1807 and 1814 and an appreciation that there has been debate about the relative significance of these. This will involve understanding the impact of the struggle with Britain on the seas and in the Iberian peninsula, the decision to invade Russia, the improving qualities of opponents’ armies and their enhanced cooperation, and the quality of Napoleon’s decision making and leadership.

Part A Advice

3 - 5 sides Under 3 is too short

Range of factors / Depth of support - Clear conclusion

Perfect answer 7 paragraphs- intro 5 paragraphs making argument, 2 paragraphs on stated factor, 3 on others, conclusion.
SUBSTANTIAL CONCLUSION.
DATES - Look at title, identify range and stated factor , Answer the Question.
Evaluate stated factor - may well conclude it was other factors.

L1 Inaccurate or irrelevant 1-6
L2 Disconnected but accurate narrative or assertive but unsupported analysis. 7-12
L3 Broadly analytical, but some narrative or only deals with either the stated factor or other factors - Unbalanced. 13-18
L4 Largely analytical but may lack either range or depth. 19-24
L5 Sustained analysis with range and depth. 25-30

Section B - Controversies
NO RELIABILITY OR UTILITY
Attribution may be used but only in terms of date of publication
Most authors will be unknown, they should not expect to recognise the author or identify school of history.
A later work is not necessarily superior to an earlier one and vice versa.

Integrate your own knowledge to contradict or fortify points in the sources.
Identify the source which provides the subject for debate - usually first one

Identify which seems to offer a different interpretation and in what way (may not be black and white!)

Relate the extracts to the broader context of the controversy

Integrate own knowledge and sources to confirm, develop, contradict points made in the sources.

*Let the sources drive the structure of the answer.

It is right to introduce issues totally additional to the sources - what don’t they mention “none of the sources deal with....”

Interpret the sources with NUANCE - look at the words - “Napoleon’s personal failings affected his decision making, as far as his military involvements” It is qualified!

DON'T
* Don’t write a section on sources, then on own knowledge

*Don’t assess reliability and utility of sources.

Napoleon – Who was he?

What does a great leader need?

Brief Biography

Born Ajaccio, Corsica in 1769 – French by only one year (Corsica taken over 1768)
- His father had been involved in Corsican resistance to France, changed sides and became prominent in French admin of Corsica.
- A Corsican noble, French lower bourgeoisie (saved him from accusations during rev)
- French as second language to Italian, heavily accented, cynical / objective to French patriotism,
- 1778 (9 years) sent to military academy in Brienne (after 3 month course learning French) – conventional education, very good at history, maths yet socially awkward, voracious reader and strongly influenced by Enlightenment writers.
- 1784 (14) scholarship to Ecole Militaire in Paris – passed as artillery officer in 1 year, instead of usual 3, commissioned to elite regiment 1785-88
- Start of rev, N stationed in Auxonne (suppressed food riots and regimental mutiny)
- Approved of revolution in principle, not in violent practice (hated sans-culottes)
- 1793 on way from leave in Corsica, passed Toulon (major naval base that had rebelled and accepted British and Spanish fleets), a patron secured him command of artillery, after a 4 month siege, his actions succeeded in gaining control of the town. First example of his military genius
- age 24 rewarded with promotion to brigadier – general (youngest ever)
- joined Robespierre’s political circle (friends with R’s brother) to become acceptable politically. Barras, soon to be most powerful man in the Directory, noticed him (Barras’ mistress was Rose de Beauharnais, later known as Josephine!)
- New political circle led to him being appointed chief planner of the operations of the army of Italy.
- At fall of Robespierre only avoided guillotine because out of Paris, released back to old job after 2 weeks in prison.
- Crisis of Vendemiaire (Oct) 1795, appointed 2\textsuperscript{nd} in charge of government forces under Barras. N put down sans-culotte rising, dispersing crowd with “a whiff of grapeshot”
- Rewarded with a promotion to Major-General, command of army of the interior.
- Married Josephine de Beauharnais, fashionable 32 year old Creole widow.
- 1795 Directory 5 man executive, responsible to 2 legislative bodies Council of the Ancients, Council of Five Hundred
- Celebrated figure of the revolution Hero

PERSONAL Qualities
- cultivated political friendships and alliances
- naked ambition
- calculating, intense concentration and focus,
- ability to never lose sight of the objective
- meticulous, imaginative (military)
- talent for self-publicity
- proven ability
- sharp mind, talent for logistics and organisation

The coup d’ etat of Brumaire

Domestic Situation in France
- November 1799 ( Year VIII month of Brumaire)
- Directory recalled Napoleon because it faced a major challenge and thought it may help.
- Directory not providing strong govt or stability – separation into 2 chambers was hindering ability to get anything done
- Financial deficit and inflation rampant

Foreign influences
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Coalition formed
- Russia had invaded Italy – France abandoned
- Situation was improving though

Events
- Sieyes, one of the Directors, wanted to strengthen the executive to neutralise potential Jacobin threat. Needed General that would be willing to use political force for this – asked Moreau and was turned down.
Sieyes went to Napoleon to use the army to take charge – he was prestigious as the “conqueror of Italy and Egypt” and with Lucien as head of the lower chamber he was also politically viable.

Napoleon took charge of Paris garrison (100,000), while councils were moved to suburb of St Cloud (more easily intimidated). Napoleon seized initiative.

10 Nov Napoleon spoke to Council of Ancients – very poor public speaker so impassioned pleas were nonsensical. “down with the dictator”

Then spoke to council of 500 – mood changed council thought he was planning a coup – Napoleon was hit by Jacobins and narrowly avoided being shot, was pulled to safety by soldiers. Lucien informed troops Napoleon had been attacked by assassins with daggers – the army expelled the council from the building. 500 met for last time that night – only 100 (Lucien ensured those left agreed with him)

Plan – get rid of the Directory – 3 consuls (on roman model) Napoleon, Sieyes and Ducos – the law of Brumaire – also 2 committees to ensure no abuse of power (these were got rid off)

Effects
- These events did not have a huge effect at the time! Apathy
- Army and Lucien key to his success. – without Lucien he would have been killed. Little reward for Lucien he was sent out of the way.
- No resistance from bourgeoisie – had deserted them, w/c didn’t care.

The Consulate
- Constitution of the Year VIII – dec 13th 1799 legitimised the coup
- To hold power for 10 years, and be re-eligible
- Napoleon First Consul – others consultative
- Universal suffrage, so indirect only 6000 could stand for office.
- Senate of 60 picked by N
- Tribunate of 1000 from 6000 that could discuss legislation but not vote.
- Legislature of 300 that could secretly vote but not discuss.
- Council of State (30-40 hand picked by N) to propose legislation
- Plebiscite of population revealed 3 million in favour, 1500 against.

Fulfillment of Robespierre’s prophecy that the rev would end with a “messiah in army boots”
Sieyes and Ducos both had impressive political pedigrees Napoleon replaced them with Cambaceres and Lebrun. –became power.

How important to Napoleon’s rise to power was the Italian campaign?

- 1794 republic safe, yet govt would not disband armies (employment, further chaos)
- 1795 Directory could not afford to keep armies on French soil – armies had to be pushed outside France, now a “war of conquest and plunder” (Wright) to prop up the Directory
- Validated Napoleon’s sense of destiny – he had been selected for greatness!
- Sent to get him out of the hair of the Directors (any glory reflected on them, any problems on Napoleon, and stopped him gaining more power in Paris)
• March 1796 35 000 experienced troops, lack of equipment, food, pay – first thing he agreed was to pay them in silver, not paper money supported by Genoan loans, high in morale
• Beat army of Piedmont, unenthusiastic allies with a small army.
• Bethier, a general “we do not march; we fly”
• Dir wanted Napoleon’s army as second to Army of Rhine, pursuing Austria was Napoleon’s personal strategy, not that of Dir.
• Beat Austrians at Battle of Lodi in Lombardy. Entered Milan in May, much looting and plunder. N’s rise began, the army of Italy was loyal to him, not Dir.
• Challenges to the Directory’s power in Paris from left and right made the Dir more dependent on the army, and they had now lost control over N
• Turned south, Pope and Kingdom of Naples felt threatened and signed alliances with indemnities
• Austria began threatening again – 4 separate armies N defeated all of them. To secure the routes and fortresses guarding the Alps. Battles of Castigilone, Bassano, Arcola, Rivoli (Aug to Jan 1797)
• Napoleon pursued 60 miles of Vienna (armies tired, supply line drawn out) dictated terms to Austrians – master of Italy in under a year.
• Treaty of Campo Formio 1797– guaranteed land gains – Belgium, parts of Venetian republic, northern Italy, Ionian islands,
• Napoleon set up Helvetic Republic, Cisalpine Republic and Roman republic, Parthenopean rep all on French model. Also gave them an Italian flag based on the French model. “Sister republics”
• Sister republics given constitutions by Napoleon modelled on that of 1795 – not condoned or suggested by Directory, Napoleon had free hand due to political crisis – coup d’état of Fructidor, a coup which passed more power to the army “resting on the bayonets of its generals” (Wright)
• Napoleon returned in triumph and was consigned elsewhere to prevent him “becoming dangerous”
• Napoleon had sent dispatches back to Paris to the press stating his triumphs, the Napoleonic legend was born.

The Egyptian campaign

• The Directory were searching for a way to attack England indirectly, they also wished to dispose of Napoleon as his power base and popularity were a threat to their own.
• Egypt was picked, as the French could cut the British imperial artery to India.
• May 1798 Napoleon was given command of the army of the Orient. The fleet set sail, (35 000 troops, 150 scientists and intellectuals) and on the way to Aboukir Bay in Egypt, the French seized Malta.
• Modernised Egypt, streetlights, great study, start of Egyptology, rosetta stone
• The army marched to Alexandria and then Cairo. Nelson and the royal navy destroyed the French fleet in Aboukir bay – N was trapped – cut off from supplies,
• Won the Battle of the Pyramids defeated Marmelukes, tried to portray himself as saviour of Islam, heavy taxes and ruthless put downs of opposition led to faced Egyptian revolt
• British blockade tightened, Napoleon invaded Syria, took Jaffa and shot 2000 prisoners (no food), failed to take Acre, lost half his men.
• Events in France forced the directory to recall Napoleon because of a severe challenge, thought he would help. Sir Sidney Smith, commander of the British in Acre,
send papers telling Napoleon of the fact Russia had declared war and invaded Italy. 1801 the army left behind were defeated by the British.
• Dir not providing strong govt, difficult to get things done….

Napoleon’s System of friends and family
• 1802 Legion of Honour (distinguished military service) – military loyalty by april 1814 32000 members (95% old soldiers)
• 1804 Senatorories – large estates, salaries and palaces for Senators – ensure political loyalty
• 1804-8 Imperial nobility and Court positions – 4/5ths to military (Marshals, Grand Marshals, grand dignataries etc) Grand officers of the Empire, large estates and salaries
• After 1808 new Imperial nobility (3600 people) – lands from Grand Duchy of Warsaw, Italy, Germany – titles such as Prince, Counts, Barons (NEW LANDS IN EMPIRE, THEREFORE LINKED TO FATE OF) – to be gifted by N or by office, by 1814 only 1/7th of the nobility numbers of 1789.
WHY?
Ensure loyalty, undermine opposition, reward service. Legitimise Bonaparte clan as rivals to Bourbons (stop Bourbon claims), people defend their land “careers open to talent”, and “politics of amalgamation” (include old U.C) Ellis Grand Empire, titles and legitimacy depended on land and military to back them up.

PROBLEMS
Wanted to use family as instruments for his own power – they disagreed. Naïve vanity, little experience, very uncertain about Napoleon’s future – believed it was only chance, therefore busy trying to create their own, stable and separate power bases by making themselves popular with their subjects.

Napoleon consolidated power by
1) rewarding loyalty, bribery etc
2) restricting liberty

network of spies and informers
Censorship – no books published without his say so., propaganda
Education – N determined curriculum and reorganised
Religion – 16 August St napoleon’s day.

How successful was N’s Military Career until 1808?
• Excellence of the Grande Armee before 1808 – army of self motivated people
• Incompetent oppositition
• Very flexible in planning – and live off the land.
• Great organiser – ability to plan and manoeuvre large numbers of troops
• Great opportunist
• Inherited a fine working military system, ability to inspire made it great also used experience to remove weak parts.
• Master of propaganda – used nationalism
• buffer and satellite states – Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Prussia classed as allies – had to pay subsidises and give troops.
BUT NO IDEA ABOUT NAVAL PLANS.

- France expanded to Belgium (1795) Piedmont (1802) Papal States (1809) Holland and North Germany (1810)
- Spain – 1808
- Confederation of the Rhine 1806 Germany unified for first time – client states big enough to effectively manage, not big enough to try for independence.
- Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1807 expanded 1809) – French protectorate
- Kingdom of Naples (1806)
- Kingdom of Italy Eugene most loyal of N’s family.
  - November 1799 N needed to strengthen his position as consul – 2nd Italian campaign
  - By 1799 French forced back to the Rhine and Italy cleared of French by Austro-Russian forces. Russia left the coalition by 1800 after the Tsar decided to return home.
- N took a gamble – a victory would strengthen him as First Consul, loss would remove him from power. Only 5 passes over the Alps, N sent main body over one, with smaller groups over the remaining 4 to confuse the Austrians.
- June 1800 Battle of Marengo, N hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned 100-20! Fought all day and were losing heavily BUT fresh troops appeared (very few) for a counter attack the surprise worked and the Austrians folded. The campaign was a “strategic masterpiece” Rothenburg but Austrians reformed. So he defeated them again at Hohenlinden (18yr old Archduke John in control after Archduke Charles declared make peace while there is still an army.

Peace of Luneville – recognised French gains, confirmed Campo Formio. Austria lost Italy except Venice and prominence in Germany – 2nd Coalition collapsed

Britain agreed to Peace of Amiens signed 27 March 1802 Br war weary, Napoleon needed to consolidate his power in france

- France had to withdraw from Papal States and Naples and Britain returned conquests including Egypt.
- N formed the Grande Armee, uniting the factions of the armed forces under his command. Trained them very hard when they went to war in 1805 “the finest army in Europe”

Peace settlement collapsed within one year – breathing space. 18 May 1803 Britain declared war and Royal Navy began blockading the French ports.

- N began assembling a fleet to invade UK from Boulogne and huge army – fleet was poised for 2 years couldn’t break Eng sea dominance. Whole plan unsound. He considered a channel tunnel. Abandoned after Trafalgar because needed French Navy to protect the Invasion fleet. Flat bottomed barges, army of 100 000.

1804 declared Emperor of France

1804 Duc d’Enghien kidnapped and executed.
1805 creation of 3rd coalition Aust, Russ, Eng – English gold backed by Russian anti-napoleonic feeling,

1805 After consolidating his rule – Kingdom of Italy ruled by Eugene

Austria joined August after N claimed Italian throne. Sweden and Naples joined. Had to take army and march on Austria after Austria declared war in summer 1805 (before Trafalgar.)

1805 Battle of Ulm
- 1805 battle of Austerlitz, Three emperors – defeated Austria and Prussia. – Russia retreated, Austria agreed to peace of Pressburg (Kutosov Prussian general) 73000 French against 87000
- Prussia peace negotiations very complicated – N led one week campaign against them
- 1806 Battle of Jena - ausderstadt (Prussia) October
- Feb 1807 Marched through Poland to attack Russia won bitter battle of Eylau, then at Friedland – Russia needed to make peace July 1807 at Tilsit, raft in middle of river Tsar Alexander I
- November 1806 Continental Blockade in force – “nation of shopkeepers” on French soil from Amiens
- 1807 Spanish adventure began.

The Spanish Ulcer – The Peninsular War

Why did he get involved? –
- Expand the Continental system to plug a gap – Portugal was being used by the British to flood the continent. N could not get Portugal but could get spain – stop them getting stuff through to Europe. (Ports also used by Royal navy)
- Another country for the Empire?

Spain run by weak king Charles IV, and his hated minister Godoy. 1795 King forced to make peace with France – Spanish saw it as dishonourable, had to be ally and supply men Godoy and Ferdinand (heir) tried to depose Charles with support of french N mediate, Ferdinand egged. Joseph and Murat sent to rule. N insisted on abdication of Charles and made heir (Ferdinand) renounce claim. Joseph was to be crowned.

What Happened?
- Junta (local resistance Spanish partisans) armed themselves.
- Duke of Wellington sent (Sir Arthur Wellesley at time) arrived August 10,000 men.
- Vimiero French army defeated – Portugal reclaimed.
- English advantages – always supplied through Portugal, well trained (three ranks system) musketeers blasted French ranks.
- Sir John Moore took over N got there in Nov, made no little difference.

- Moore tried to cut French line of supply, failed had to retreat to Corunna, evacuated by British navy. 6000 English killed including Moore.
- Had significantly damaged French forces, and stopped them from subduing Spain, or conquering Portugal

What went wrong?
- N never realised Spain “wild empty and poor” Dg Wright.
- Signs for Joseph bad – May 1808 Madrid insurrection against Joachim Murat (caretaker) 150 killed - horrific French reprisals.
- Spain largely hostile. Some rich, bourgeoisie welcomed chance for reform. Majority willing to take up arms for liberation. – war for freedom!
- Very religious – clergy against de-christian elements, landowners scared.
  - Jan 1809 N forced to leave as Austrians planning to attack on Danube.
  - Spain left to French marshals – hated each other and squabbled. Had no plan.
  - Spain became an “ulcer” sucking money and troops 250,000 troops.
  - Gold and national pride damaged, very unpopular in France.
  - N failed to grasp size and geography of Spain. Didn’t get enough supplies. Wanted to live off the land. Spanish “scorched earth” policy, hostile population and guerrilla warfare made this impossible.

  - N out of touch in Paris, French starved, N did not understand how to counter it.

Continental system caused this.

- A huge version of the Vendee.
- Big error,
- Huge drain of men and resources
- Encouraged rebellion
- Never popular with France.
- Could have won if N stayed there but would not ignore rest of Europe.

Talleyrand – “The Rhine, the Alps, the Pyrenees are the conquests of Europe. The rest is the conquest of the emperor, not supported by France.”

The End of the Empire?

The Austrian Campaign 1809

- With Baylen Austrians encouraged to stand up to N – wanted to reclaim pride and influence
- Feb 1809 campaign begins N lost battle at Essling – lost 20,000 men.
- Their army was much improved since Austerlitz, reformed and enlarged.
- N narrowly won at Wagram, and expensive victory. – lost at least 32,000 men.
- Treaty of Schonbrunn for peace – NAPOLEON’S LAST GREAT VICTORY

WHY?
  - Troops of poorer quality, raw recruits, from satellite states, fewer veterans
  - N’s arrogance – did not prepare, or cope with superior numbers.
  - Austria had copied French tactics – “rapid, mobile warfare”
  - N’s infallibility had been challenged and the French had been defeated at Baylen – encouraged spirit of resistance.
N had to seek an alliance with Austria – Josephine was divorced – no heir. N married Marie – Louise, Archduchess of Austria, and daughter of the Emperor.

The Russian Campaign – Why?

- After Tilsit relations between Tsar Alexander I and Napoleon had cooled.
- Russia was prevented by N from expanding into the Ottoman Empire.
- N annexed Duchy of Oldenburg in Germany, Duke of Oldenburg was the Tsar’s brother-in-law
- N turned down Alexander’s sister for marriage.
- Continental System, Russian economy depended on supplying Britain. Tsar bowed to pressure and opened ports to neutral shipping in December 1810.
- N began gathering an army.

The Russian Campaign 1812

- French army – 130,000 men, 587 guns
- Russian army 120,000 men 640 guns.

- An army of 600,000 was gathered.
- N’s plan – quick, decisive victory and peace – teach Alexander a lesson.
- Russia could not match manpower and so avoided battle – “scorched earth” policy, draw N deeper into Russia by retreat while sapping the strength of the Grand Army.
- Army hungry, tired, disease ravaged.
- Battle of Borodino, Russian commander Kutosov decided to fight 100 miles outside Moscow.
- Huge losses for both sides Pyrrhic victory for France. BUT Russian retreated. (losses French – 28,000, Russian 40,000)
- France pursued only to find Moscow empty. More than half the army was already dead.
- Newly released convicts set fire to the city. All food gone.
- Tsar did not sue for peace!
- N was forced to turn back for France
- BUT too late, winter was setting in. Army only in summer clothes.
- 19 Oct retreat began, Kutosov harrassed them the entire way
- Crossing of the River Niemen, Russians destroyed the bridge N’s sappers just replaced them in time to get the army across.

N had to leave the army in December because of plot to despose him in Paris. – Amry almost disintegrated without him.

Malet plot – spread story N was dead, Set up provisional govt, N most upset that no one had tried to crown his son, the King of Rome, or have Marie-Louise as ruler.

Only 25,000 of the Grand Army returned.

Why did it fail?

- N blamed the weather – freezing conditions
- Russia was too large 1/6th land surface of the world. N may have to pursue hundreds of miles.
3) If they had to march, then cannot supply troops.
4) Army a rabble from all over Europe.
5) Soldier’s had only 4 days rations – could 600,000 men live off the land for the planned 9 weeks?
6) Poor maps, poor clothing, few medical supplies.
7) Before they got to Russia 60,000 were dead of disease.

- Vilna’s supplies and all others were set on fire by the Russians.
- Cossack raiding bands harried and picked off the army.

**The coup d’ etat of Brumaire**

**Domestic Situation in France**

- November 1799 (Year VIII month of Brumaire)
- Directory recalled N because it faced a major challenge and thought it may help.
- Dir not providing strong govt or stability – separation into 2 chambers was hindering ability to get anything done
- Financial deficit and inflation rampant

**Foreign influences**

- 2nd Coalition formed
- Russia had invaded Italy – France abandoned
- Situation was improving though

**Events**

- Sieyes, one of the Directors, wanted to strengthen the executive to neutralise potential Jacobin threat. Needed General that would be willing to use political force for this – asked Moreau and was turned down.
- Sieyes went to N to use the army to take charge – he was prestigious as the “conqueror of Italy and Egypt” and with Lucien as head of the lower chamber he was also politically viable.
- N took charge of Paris garrison (100,000), while councils were moved to suburb of St Cloud (more easily intimidated). N seized initiative.
- 10 Nov N spoke to Council of Ancients – very poor public speaker so impassioned pleas were nonsensical. “down with the dictator”
- Then spoke to council of 500 – mood changed council thought he was planning a coup – N was hit by Jacobins and narrowly avoided being shot, was pulled to safety by soldiers. Lucien informed troops N had been attacked by assassins with daggers – the army expelled the council from the building. 500 met for last time that night – only 100 (Lucien ensured those left agreed with him)
- Plan – get rid of the Directory – 3 consuls (on roman model) Nap, Sieyes and Ducos – the law of Brumaire – also 2 committees to ensure no abuse of power (these were got rid off)

**Effects**

- These events did not have a huge effect at the time! Apathy
- Army and Lucien key to his success. – without Lucien he would have been killed. Little reward for Lucien he was sent out of the way.
- No resistance from bgz – had deserted them, w/c didn’t care.
The Consulate

- Constitution of the Year VIII – dec 13th 1799 legitimised the coup
- To hold power for 10 years, and be re-eligible
- Nap First Consul – others consultative
- Universal suffrage, so indirect only 6000 could stand for office.
- Senate of 60 picked by N
- Tribunate of 1000 from 6000 that could discuss legislation but not vote.
- Legislature of 300 that could secretly vote but not discuss.
- Council of State (30-40 hand picked by N) to propose legislation
- Plebiscite of population revealed 3 million in favour, 1500 against.

Fulfillment of Robespierre’s prophecy that the rev would end with a “messiah in army boots”
Sieyes and Ducos both had impressive political pedigrees N replaced them with Cambaceres and Lebrun. – C.o.S. became power.

How important to Napoleon’s rise to power was the Italian campaign?

- 1794 republic safe, yet govt would not disband armies (employment, further chaos)
- 1795 Directory could not afford to keep armies on French soil – armies had to be pushed outside France, now a “war of conquest and plunder” (Wright) to prop up the Dir
- Validated N’s sense of destiny – he had been selected for greatness!
- Sent to get him out of the hair of the Directors (any glory reflected on them, any problems on N, and stopped him gaining more power in paris)
- March 1796 35 000 experienced troops, lack of equipment, food, pay – first thing he agreed was to pay them in silver, not paper money supported by Genoan loans, high in morale
- Beat army of Piedmont, unenthusiastic allies with a small army.
- Bethier, a general “we do not march; we fly”
- Dir wanted N’s army as second to Army of Rhine, pursuing austria was N’s personal strategy, not that of Dir.
- Beat Austrians at Battle of Lodi in Lombardy. Entered Milan in May, much looting and plunder. N’s rise began, the army of Italy was loyal to him, not Dir.
- Challenges to the Dir’s power in paris from left and right made the Dir more dependent on the army, and they had now lost control over N
- Turned south, Pope and Kingdom of Naples felt threatened and signed alliances with indemnities
- Austria began threatening again – 4 separate armies N defeated all of them. To secure the routes and fortresses guarding the alps. Battles of Castigilone, bassano, Arcola, Rivoli (Aug to Jan 1797)
- N pursued 60 miles of Vienna (armies tired, supply line drawn out) dictated terms to Austrians – master of Italy in under a year.
- Treaty of Campo Formio 1797– guaranteed land gains – Belgium, parts of Venetian republic, northern Italy, Ionian islands,
- Napoleon set up Helvetic Republic, Cisalpine Republic and Roman republic, parthenopean rep all on French model. Also gave them an Italian flag based on the french model. “Sister republics”
- Sister republics given consitutions by N modelled on that of 1795 – not condoned or suggested by Dir, N had free hand due to political crisis – coup d’ etat of Fructidor, a
coup which passed more power to the army “resting on the bayonets of its generals” (Wright)

- N returned in triumph and was consigned elsewhere to prevent him “becoming dangerous”
- N had sent dispatches back to paris to the press stating his triumphs, the napoleonic legend was born.

The Egyptian campaign

- The directory were searching for a way to attack England indirectly, they also wished to dispose of N as his power base and popularity were a threat to their own.
- Egypt was picked, as the French could cut the British imperial artery to India.
- May 1798 N was given command of the army of the Orient. The fleet set sail, (35 000 troops, 150 scientists and intellectuals) and on the way to Aboukir Bay in Egypt, the French seized Malta.
- Modernised Egypt, streetlights, great study, start of egyptology, rosetta stone
- The army marched to Alexandria and then Cairo. Nelson and the royal navy destroyed the French fleet in Aboukir bay – N was trapped – cut off from supplies,
- Won the Battle of the Pyramids defeated Marmelukes, tried to portray himself as saviour of Islam, heavy taxes and ruthless put downs of opposition led to faced Egyptian revolt
- British blockade tightened, N invaded Syria, took Jaffa and shot 2000 prisoners (no food), failed to take Acre, lost half his men.
- Events in France forced the directory to recall N because of a severe challenge, thought he would help. Sir Sidney Smith, commander of the British in Acre, send papers telling N of the fact Russia had declared war and invaded Italy. 1801 the army left behind were defeated by the British.
- Directory not providing strong govt, difficult to get things done…..

Napoleon’s System of friends and family

- 1802 Legion of Honour (distinguished military service) – military loyalty by april 1814 32000 members (95% old soldiers)
- 1804 Senatorerries – large estates, salaries and palaces for Senators – ensure political loyalty
- 1804-8 Imperial nobility and Court positions – 4/5ths to military (Marshals, Grand Marshals, grand dignataries etc) Grand officers of the Empire, large estates and salaries
- After 1808 new Imperial nobility (3600 people) – lands from Grand Duchy of Warsaw, Italy, Germany – titles such as Prince, Counts, Barons (NEW LANDS IN EMPIRE, THEREFORE LINKED TO FATE OF) – to be gifted by N or by office, by 1814 only 1/7th of the nobility numbers of 1789.

WHY?
Ensure loyalty, undermine opposition, reward service. Legitimise bonaparte clan as rivals to Bourbons (stop Bourbon claims), people defend their land "careers open to talent", and “politics of amalgamation” (include old U.C) Ellis Grand Empire, titles and legitimacy depended on land and military to back them up.

PROBLEMS
Wanted to use family as instruments for his own power – they disagree. Naïve vanity, little experience, very uncertain about N’s future – believed it was only chance, therefore busy trying to create their own, stable and separate power bases by making themselves popular with their subjects.

WHO’S WHO
Josephine de la Pagerie 1763 – 1814 Rich widow, ex a guillotined aristocrat, socialite creole, very socially able, Barras’ mistress
Her daughter Hortense married Louis Nap’s brother, their son became napoleon III Married 1796, divorced 1809, due to no children.

Joseph Fouche

Lazare Carnot
French general and politician. Organised Rev armies. War minister 1800-01 then Minister of Interior. “Organiser of victory”

Guibert
Military writer – armies live off land, swift calvalry charges to confuse enemy. Influenced N’s strategy heavily.

Marshal Berthier - Prince of Wagram
Louis Bonaparte. Married Hortense, son Napoleon III (2nd Empire) King of Holland until 1810 refused to close his ports to the british or introduce conscription.

Eugene Beauharnais N’s stepson Viceroy of Italy for N’s son King of Rome

Joseph Bonaparte King of Naples until 1808, then King of Spain

Marshal Murat and Caroline Bonaparte King and Queen of Naples 1808- Refused continental system and tried to champion Neopolitan interests over French.

Jerome Bonaparte Westphalia, famous for extravagance

Marie-Louise of Austria N’s wife from 1810 (niece of Marie-Antionette) bore him a son 1811 King of Rome

Coronation – crowned himself and Josephine, broke with tradition, took crown off the pope.

Marshal Lefebvre “ Did N believe that when we had lands, titles and money, we would kill ourselves for his sake?”

N consolidated power by
1) rewarding loyalty, bribery etc
2) restricting liberty

network of spies and informers
Censorship – no books published without his say so., propaganda
Education – N determined curriculum and reorganised
Religion – 16 August St napoleon’s day.
Napoleon’s Reforms

Administrative - France divided into organisational departments, each department to have a Prefect - representative of Napoleon, appointed by Napoleon. Centralised Government, Secret Police lead by Joseph Fouche.

Social - formation of Lycee’s, Polytechniques - education to create citizens and army officers. University of France - education now in the hands of central government, not the Church. Legion of Honour to reward loyal or military service. “Men are led by baubles” Imperial Nobility from 1804.

Religious - the Concordat, 1801 - Agreement signed with Pope, healing the religious division of the Revolution, Napoleon now appointed Bishops “My Prefects in Purple.” Religious toleration for Jews, Protestants

Economic - Bank of France formed 1801, grants for entrepreneurs

Legal - Code Napoleon - codification of all French Laws into a unified, uncomplicated modern system - copied by many other countries. Secured land gains of the revolution, asserted male rights. Work permits, and close control from Napoleon - tried to spread it around the Empire.

How successful was N’s Military Career until 1808?

• Excellence of the Grande Armee before 1808 – army of self motivated people
• Incompetent opposition
• Very flexible in planning – and live off the land.
• Great organiser – ability to plan and manoeuvre large numbers of troops
• Great opportunist
• Inherited a fine working military system, ability to inspire made it great also used experience to remove weak parts.
• Master of propaganda – used nationalism
• buffer and satellite states – Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Prussia classed as allies – had to pay subsidies and give troops.

BUT NO IDEA ABOUT NAVAL PLANS.

• France expanded to Belgium (1795) Piedmont (1802) Papal States (1809) Holland and North Germany (1810)
• Spain – 1808
Confederation of the Rhine 1806 - Germany unified for first time – client states big enough to effectively manage, not big enough to try for independence.

Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1807 expanded 1809) – French protectorate

Kingdom of Naples (1806)

Kingdom of Italy Eugene most loyal of N's family.

November 1799 N needed to strengthen his position as consul – 2nd Italian campaign

By 1799 French forced back to the Rhine and Italy cleared of French by Austro-Russian forces. Russia left the coalition by 1800 after the Tsar decided to return home.

N took a gamble – a victory would strengthen him as First Consul, loss would remove him from power. Only 5 passes over the Alps, N sent main body over one, with smaller groups over the remaining 4 to confuse the Austrians.

June 1800 Battle of Marengo, N hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned 100-20! Fought all day and were losing heavily BUT fresh troops appeared (very few) for a counter attack the surprise worked and the Austrians folded. The campaign was a "strategic masterpiece" Rothenburg but Austrians reformed.

So he defeated them again at Hohenlinden (18yr old Archduke John in control after Archduke Charles declared make peace while there is still an army.

Peace of Luneville – recognised French gains, confirmed Campo Formio. Austria lost Italy except Venice and prominence in Germany – 2nd Coalition collapsed

Peace settlement collapsed within one year – breathing space. 18 May 1803 Britain declared war and Royal Navy began blockading the French ports.

1803 N began assembling a fleet to invade UK from Boulogne and huge army – fleet was poised for 2 years couldn’t break Eng sea dominance. Whole plan unsound. He considered a channel tunnel. Abandoned after Trafalgar because needed French Navy to protect the Invasion fleet. Flat bottomed barges, army of 100 000.

1804 declared Emperor of France

1804 Duc d’Enghien kidnapped and executed.

1805 creation of 3rd coalition Aust, Russ, Eng – English gold backed by Russian anti-napoleonic feeling.

1805 After consolidating his rule – Kingdom of Italy ruled by Eugene

Austria joined August after N claimed Italian throne. Sweden and Naples joined.

Had to take army and march on Austria after Austria declared war in summer 1805 (before Trafalgar.)

1805 Battle of Ulm

1805 battle of Austerlitz, Three emperors – defeated Austria and Prussia. – Russia retreated, Austria agreed to peace of Pressburg (Kutozov Prussian general) 73000 French against 87000
Prussia peace negotiations very complicated – N led one week campaign against them
1806 Battle of Jena - ausderstadt (Prussia) October
Feb 1807 Marched through Poland to attack Russia won bitter battle of Eylau, then at Friedland – Russia needed to make peace July 1807 at Tilsit, raft in middle of river Tsar Alexander I
November 1806 Continental Blockade in force – “nation of shopkeepers” on French soil from Amiens
1807 Spanish adventure began.

The Spanish Ulcer – The Peninsular War

Why did he get involved? –
1. Expand the Continental system to plug a gap – Portugal was being used by the British to flood the continent. N could not get Portugal but could get spain – stop them getting stuff through to Europe. (Ports also used by Royal navy)
2. Another country for the Empire?
Spain run by weak king Charles IV, and his hated minister Godoy. 1795 King forced to make peace with France – Spanish saw it as dishonourable, had to be ally and supply men Godoy and Ferdinand (heir) tried to depose Charles with support of french N mediate, Ferdinand egged. Joseph and Murat sent to rule. N insisted on abdication of Charles and made heir (Ferdinand) renounce claim. Joseph was to be crowned.

What Happened?
• Junta (local resistance Spanish partisans) armed themselves.
• Baylen 1808 July 19 French division defeated by Spaniards. N “horrible catastrophe” news spread, N ordered two corps of Grand Army to attack. 100,000 troops. Junta appealed to England for help.
• Duke of Wellington sent (Sir Arthur Wellesley at time) arrived August 10,000 men.
• Vimiero French army defeated – Portugal reclaimed.
• English advantages – always supplied through Portugal, well trained (three ranks system) musketeers blasted French ranks.
• Sir John Moore took over N got there in Nov, made no little difference.

• Moore tried to cut French line of supply, failed had to retreat to Corunna, evacuated by British navy. 6000 English killed including Moore.
• Had significantly damaged French forces, and stopped them from subduing Spain, or conquering Portugal

What went wrong?
• N never realised Spain “wild empty and poor” Dg Wright.
• Signs for Joseph bad – May 1808 Madrid insurrection against Joachim Murat (caretaker) 150 killed - horrific French reprisals.
• Spain largely hostile. Some rich, bourgiosie welcomed chance for reform. Majority willing to take up arms for liberation. – war for freedom!
• Very religious – clergy against de-christian elements, landowners scared.
• Jan 1809 N forced to leave as Austrians planning to attack on Danube.
• Spain left to French marshals – hated each other and squabbled. Had no plan.
• Spain became an “ulcer” sucking money and troops 250,000 troops.
• Gold and national pride damaged, very unpopular in France.
• N failed to grasp size and geography of Spain. Didn’t get enough supplies. Wanted to live off the land. Spanish “scorched earth” policy, hostile population and guerrilla warfare made this impossible.

• Wellesley returned with 30,000. Guarded Lisbon behind fortifications of Torres Vedras. Hit and run, “guerilla” (little wars) tactics very successful. French never dislodged him.
• N out of touch in Paris, French starved, N did not understand how to counter it.
• Joseph left in charge, no idea of military matters – wellington broke out of the lines, by 1813 defeated French at Vittoria, Joseph ran. Wellington followed into France.

Continental system caused this.

• A huge version of the Vendee.
• Big error,
• Huge drain of men and resources
• Encouraged rebellion
• Never popular with France.
• Could have won if N stayed there but would not ignore rest of Europe.

Talleyrand – “The Rhine, the Alps, the Pyrenees are the conquests of Europe. The rest is the conquest of the emperor, not supported by France.”

The End of the Empire?

The Austrian Campaign 1809

• With Baylen Austrians encouraged to stand up to N – wanted to reclaim pride and influence
• Feb 1809 campaign begins N lost battle at Essling – lost 20,000 men.
• Their army was much improved since Austerlitz, reformed and enlarged.
• N narrowly won at Wagram, and expensive victory. – lost at least 32,000 men.
• Treaty of Schonbrunn for peace – NAPOLEON’S LAST GREAT VICTORY

WHY?
1. Troops of poorer quality, raw recruits, from satellite states, fewer veterans
2. N’s arrogance – did not prepare, or cope with superior numbers.
3. Austria had copied French tactics – “rapid, mobile warfare”
4. N’s infallibility had been challenged and the French had been defeated at Baylen – encouraged spirit of resistance.

• N had to seek an alliance with Austria – Josephine was divorced – no heir. N married Marie – Louise, Archduchess of Austria, and daughter of the Emperor.

The Russian Campaign – Why?

• After Tilsit relations between Tsar Alexander I and Napoleon had cooled.
• Russia was prevented by N from expanding into the Ottoman Empire.
• N annexed Duchy of Oldenburg in Germany, Duke of Oldenburg was the Tsar’s brother-in-law
N turned down Alexander’s sister for marriage.
Continental System, Russian economy depended on supplying Britain. Tsar bowed to pressure and opened ports to neutral shipping in December 1810.
N began gathering an army.

The Russian Campaign 1812

- French army – 130,000 men, 587 guns
- Russian army 120,000 men 640 guns.

- An army of 600,000 was gathered.
- N’s plan – quick, decisive victory and peace – teach Alexander a lesson.
- Russia could not match manpower and so avoided battle – “scorched earth” policy, draw N deeper into Russia by retreat while sapping the strength of the Grand Army.
- Army hungry, tired, disease ravaged.
- Battle of Borodino, Russian commander Kutosov decided to fight 100 miles outside Moscow.
- Huge losses for both sides Pyrrhic victory for France. BUT Russian retreated. (losses French – 28,000, Russian 40,000)
- France pursued only to find Moscow empty. More than half the army was already dead.
- Newly released convicts set fire to the city. All food gone.
- Tsar did not sue for peace!
- N was forced to turn back for France
- BUT too late, winter was setting in. Army only in summer clothes.
- 19 Oct retreat began, Kutosov harrassed them the entire way
- Crossing of the River Niemen, Russians destroyed the bridge N’s sappers just replaced them in time to get the army across.

N had to leave the army in December because of plot to despose him in Paris. – Amry almost disintegrated without him.

Malet plot – spread story N was dead, Set up provisional govt, N most upset that no one had tried to crown his son, the King of Rome, or have Marie- Louise as ruler. Only 25,000 of the Grand Army returned.

Why did it fail?
- N blamed the weather – freezing conditions
- Russia was too large 1/6th land surface of the world. N may have to pursue hundreds of miles.
- If they had to march, then cannot supply troops.
- Army a rabble from all over Europe.
- Soldier’s had only 4 days rations – could 600,000 men live off the land for the planned 9 weeks?
- Poor maps, poor clothing, few medical supplies.
- Before they got to Russia 60,000 were dead of disease.

- Vilna’s supplies and all others were set on fire by the Russians.
- Cossack raiding bands harried and picked off the army.

“"The Continental System destroyed Napoleon’s Empire” – Do you agree with this statement?"
In the years before the Coup d’Etat of Brumaire in 1801, Napoleon Bonaparte managed to quickly gain the support of the French Revolutionary military, which he later used to overthrow the corrupt Directory who held power. Steadily Napoleon wore down the safeguards applied by Consul Sieyes, which were implemented to prevent any radical government from ever re-emerging. This continued until Napoleon declared himself Emperor of the French in 1804 whereby the extension of the French Empire began. Despite Napoleon’s military experience and prowess there were many factors, which worked towards his final defeat in 1815. The most predominant of these factors was Napoleon’s implementation of the Continental System, which was his style of economic warfare against Britain. Napoleon soon learned however that the Continental System was severely flawed and there were holes appearing. It is mainly for this reason that Napoleon had to secure the European coastline to enforce the system.

Napoleon worked his way to fame through the use of the military in the Italian and Egyptian Campaigns. It must be stressed that the military was the key to power in the earlier years of the revolution, however this meant that Napoleon’s reign and the empire was to be wholly dependent on the strength of the army. In order to overcome his lack of knowledge on naval warfare, he used the successful military tactics of the Revolution against his enemies in order to defeat them quickly and effectively. Historian D.G. Wright named it a “[new type of] rapid, mobile warfare”. Despite Napoleon’s desire to capitalise on the changes that were made in the revolution, it appeared that he was making steps back to the Ancien Regime as in 1808 he declared the establishment of a new ‘imperial nobility’. Napoleon had also placed restrictions on the working class and female citizens, yet the majority of the French still remained loyal to him as shown in the 100 Days Campaign before Napoleon’s defeat.

From 1808 Napoleon was challenged by the need to continue the continental blockade in order to enforce the Continental System and to prohibit all trade with Britain. Napoleon had misjudged the British Control of the sea, and therefore the coastline, and also the British resilience to his blockade. Britain found many new trading partners in South America and was therefore never deprived of trade. The majority of satellite states covertly traded with Britain that cumulated into the holes in the system. Napoleon relied on the support and loyalty of the satellite states and allies, however this emphasised the flaws in his plans, as he needed to prevent the British trade with their ally Portugal and Spain.

In 1807 Napoleon was forced to relocate a small army into Spain in order to defeat Portugal. Despite his successful campaigns in both Portugal and Spain he was defeated by Spanish guerrilla forces at Baylen on 20th July. The result was not just defeat for Napoleon, but a huge increase in support for his enemies, as his reputation of military supremacy had been torn. Subsequently, Napoleon faced defeat by the Duke of Wellington at Vimiero. Napoleon evidently saw his superiority crumbling and assigned 100,000 army veterans to the recapture of Spain. Despite desperate attempts, the introduction of Sir John Moore’s forces and the Austrian attacks in the north Napoleon had to abandon his offensives in Spain. By 1813 Spain had been liberated from the French, and Napoleon’s reputation was shattered. French forces in the peninsula were always at a disadvantage to the Spanish guerrillas and ‘Scorched Earth’ policy. French communications and supplies were overextended and could easily be cut. Spain was described as an ‘ulcer’ which gradually wore down French resources and troops until 1814. It is therefore evident that this failure was due to more than just the enforcement of the Continental System as Napoleon’s enemies were copying his tactics and found ways to weaken his army, while the empire’s resources were being severely overstretched.

As a stronger link to Napoleon’s failings in Spain, the Russian Campaign of 1812 proved much more severe and problematic. Steadily, already tenuous relations between France and Russia were worn down. Despite several disagreements the Tsar initiated a new trade tariff, favouring British trade. This was yet another hole in the Continental
System, the system from which Napoleon’s failings stem from. However Napoleon misjudged the Russians on several levels. Napoleon’s forces expected a quick and decisive battle and marched on towards Russia under constant threat from roaming Cossack forces under influence of Tsar Alexander. The Russian forces were too few in number to conquer the masses of men in the French army and were ordered to retreat further into Russia. Supply lines were stretched and the Russians burnt all tenable land to prevent the French from finding food. After suffering moderate losses from disease and exhaustion Napoleon defeated the Russians at Borodino on 7th September. The major flaw came when the French took Moscow and remained in the deserted city for more than a month. Napoleon ordered retreat on 19th October however he hit the Russian winter head on. Harassed by Russian forces the French retreated to France with only 25,000 of the Grande Armée remaining. The withering General may have avoided this catastrophe with more effective planning however undoubtedly his arrogance played a part in his fatal clash with the Russians. The simple fact remained that Napoleon could not enforce the Continental system.

An earlier benefit to Napoleon was the disunity of allied armies. However in 1813 Tsar Alexander organised the Fourth Coalition, united for the single purpose of removing Napoleon’s power in Europe. The implementation of an Armistice gave Napoleon breathing space however Austria used the time to steadily increase its power until it went to war against France in August. The Treaty of Chaumont proved to be the final uniting of Napoleon’s enemies where they vowed to defeat him, and to stay together for twenty years after. Over a continued campaign, Paris was finally captured in March 1814 heralding Napoleon’s abdication. Despite Napoleon’s somewhat valiant attempt at reclaiming power, he was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo on 14th June 1815 where the Bourbon Monarchy was restored in France and the Second Treaty of Paris signed to reinstate France’s borders of 1790. Evidently the unity displayed by the allied forces was a major cause for the collapse of the empire as Napoleon had the power to defeat them one by one. His constant pursuit of the Continental System meant that relations with neighbouring countries dissipated and disagreements began to form. Rather than gaining a ‘universal empire’, Napoleon’s efforts to enforce his authoritarian government caused many fissures to appear within Europe.

Overall it is plausible to suggest that Napoleon lost control of the empire and was defeated for more than just the existence of the Continental System. The system was difficult to enforce and required the loyalty of all allies and satellite states. Despite this flaw, Napoleon made many tactical errors when on the Peninsular Campaign which were repeated to an extent in Russia although more severely. Since the seat of his power rested on the military these campaigns irreparably damaged both his reputation and power in the empire. Strong nationalist feelings grew, leading to the independence of many of France’s satellite states and annexed territories. The Continental System, which Napoleon strived to enforce, was the mere impetus of his failure. However, had Napoleon not entered Spain or Russia, the System would have had no effect with precious resources being spent on its implementation and control. Surely though the main weaknesses of Napoleon were eventually exploited by his enemies. His empire was overextended, and he did not develop his tactics over his reign. The other powers of Europe, at first dumbfounded by his techniques, gradually adapted and enhanced on the weaknesses that were displayed in the Peninsular and Russian Campaigns. Napoleon’s military might was eroded, exposing the fragile governmental structure that lied within. Thus, Napoleon’s Continental System was in effect the main reason for the downfall of the French Empire, however the weaknesses of Napoleon as Emperor and General were exploited because of his mistakes until gradually he was overpowered.
http://www.napoleonicgallery.napoleonicwars.com/
The above site provides a wealth of visual sources about the Napoleonic era. The graphics are, for the main part in chronological order. This is the best site for visual sources of Napoleon.

http://nav.webring.yahoo.com/hub?ring=bonaparte&list
This site is the homepage of the Napoleon webring – a linked circle of sites about the Napoleonic period. It is simple to navigate and will take you to different sites about different facets of the Napoleonic era. Be careful not to get confused by some of the sites though – a large amount are for reenactment societies, and wargamers.

http://www.napoleon.org
The official French site, available in English fortunately. This is an excellent resource containing a wealth of information. It is easy to navigate and also has fun sections – webpostcards, recipes, jigsaws etc. Overall, one of the best sites on the web! Also contains a lot of information on Napoleon III.

http://historyserver.org/napoleon.series/
This is a comprehensive academic site that deals with Napoleon’s rule and his military success. The frequently asked questions section is designed to help students with essays and homework and the discussion forum is very helpful. If you need help, or want to know more about his campaigns, this is the site to come to.

http://www.n-a.co.uk/
Again a site that concentrates on the military aspect, extremely detailed – be careful not to get too bogged down in irrelevant facts!

http://www.napoleonicgallery.napoleonicwars.com/links
Exactly what it says – a page of links to other Napoleonic sites.

http://www.napoleonguide.com  Lots of info!
Q.1 ‘In the years 1799–1804, Napoleon claimed to be doing no more than restoring a necessary order in France. He was in reality establishing his own military dictatorship there.’
How far do you agree with this judgement?
(30)
Indicative Content
This question addresses the important series of domestic reforms in France between the Coup of Brumaire 1799 to the Imperial coronation of Frimaire 1804. Candidates will probably address the establishment of the Consulate, the setting up of the key organs of Napoleonic France: Senate, Council of State, Tribunate and Legislative Body; the steady centralising of power in Napoleon’s hands - Consul for life, the purging of the Tribunate and Legislative Assembly in 1802, the assumption of imperial dignity etc. Other key reforms will probably be assessed: the creation of the Bank of France, the Concordat, the creation of the Legion d’Honneur, development of the Code Civile, administrative and educational reforms.
Timeline of Defeat!

- Peninsular War
- 1812 Russian campaign
- 1812 Fourth Coalition formed
- 1813 Battle of Leipzig N defeated.
- Remanants of French army decimated by Typhus.
- 1814 March Treaty of Chaumont commits Coalition to N’s defeat.
- May N’s abdication, Treaty of Paris, exile to Elba.
- 1815 March “100 Days”, Acte Addtionnel
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo
- Napoleon’s exile to St Helena
- 1821 Napoleon dies.

The Grande Armée was all but crushed by the disaster in Russia. Prussia declared war – France did not get time to raise a new army. France was disillusioned so N had to fight, France would not allow him to make peace.

Austria joined the Allies. Bernadotte (one of N’s generals and ruler of Sweden) joined. Battle of Leipzig (Battle of the Nations) France was pushed back to the “Natural frontiers”

Why did the Empire fall?

Disillusionment of France – dependence on personal rule and military supremacy.

“His enemies learnt to play him at his own game” Stiles.

“It had always been the case that is if the European great powers sank their differences and stuck together, Napoleon was finished.” D.G. Wright

Rise of Nationalism against N – guerilla war, scorched earth “Napoleon incubated nationalism” A Stiles.

Russian campaign “a national war of resistance in defence of Mother Russia.” Alexander I “Nous sommes foutos” Marat.
At Level 2 and below a descriptive approach to one or more of these issues is likely to be adopted.

At Level 3 a case will be made either arguing for or against the proposition. The answer is likely to be unbalanced with probably a heavy emphasis on the consolidation of Napoleon’s power.

At Level 4 there should be a real debate with the evidence for support of the proposition that Napoleon was establishing a military dictatorship set against the argument that reform was necessary given the legacy of the 1790s and reforms were implemented that did more than support and develop military dictatorship. At this level and above there may be references to the considerable divisions within France.

At Level 5, look for a real balanced response as well as address to a broader chronological perspective.
Unit 3 Napoleon - All you need to know. JCE 2011

**Why did the Empire End?**

- The Expansion of the Empire was not always popular within France.
- “The Alps, the Rhine, the Pyrenees, these are the conquests of France, the rest are the conquests of the Emperor unsupported by France” Talleyrand
- The Empire was overstretched

- Napoleon’s rule was personal, and precarious – as shown by the Malet plot.

- The Fourth Coalition
  - The Allies united and worked together for the first time – N had always played on the divisions between them – they were united in the goal of his destruction.
  - Treaty of Chaumont – became the Quadruple Alliance, no separate peace, they would fight until N had fallen – the Empire’s death warrant.

- Modernisation of other countries – Adapted to N’s tactics
  - “His enemies learned to play N at his own game” Stiles
  - Very hard to control huge armies over vast distances
  - French armies of lower quality – more recruits than veterans

- Nationalism
  - Stiles “Napoleon incubated Nationalism” – people saw in Spain and Russia that France could be defeated.

- Continental System – economic war forced N to expand the Empire to police the system.
  - It was unpopular and led to war in Spain and Russia.

- N’s confidence and determination altered into stubbornness and unwillingness to face facts – misjudged matters in Russia and Spain.
- Personal leadership – with huge armies this doesn’t work.
- He suffered much illness in the Empire’s later years.
Sample Essay Titles

To what extent would you agree that Napoleon introduced effective government to France?

‘The aim of Napoleon’s domestic reforms was to create a dictatorship.’ How far do you agree with this judgement?

“Napoleon secured his power only through the military”. How far is this statement valid?

How far was Napoleon’s rise to power down to the weakness of the Directory government?

How important were Napoleon’s personal qualities in his rise to power?

‘Napoleon’s rise to power should be attributed merely to his control of the army.’ How far do you agree with this judgement?

‘Napoleon’s most significant domestic reform was the signing of the Concordat in 1801.’ How valid is this interpretation of Napoleon’s domestic policy?

‘Napoleon’s reforms in France were wide-ranging and beneficial to the French people.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

To what extent did Napoleon rule France with the consent of his people?

What impact did Napoleon’s success in war have on the support from the French period up until 1807?

To what extent were Napoleon’s domestic reforms essentially conservative?

How significant were Napoleon’s measures to secure his power?

How valid is the view that essential to Napoleon maintaining power was Napoleon ensuring financial stability?

To what extent did Napoleon’s domestic reforms bring progress to France?

‘Nothing more than a dictatorship.’ How far do you agree with this judgement on Napoleon’s reign 1799-1810?
Section B
It is recommended that students allow in the region of 20 minutes in the whole examination for reading, choice and planning, giving themselves approximately equal response times for the two Sections A and B i.e. 50 minutes for each. It is expected that the answer to Section B will be a substantial piece of extended writing similar in length to Section A, since students will need to refer to and work with source material in the production of the response. A typical length may be in the region of 800-1000 words.

6. Use Sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge.
How far did the personal deterioration of Napoleon account for the collapse of his Empire in 1814? Explain your answer, using the evidence of Sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.
(Total 40 marks)

SOURCE 4
(From Robert Asprey, *The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte*, published 2001)
As European armies suffered repeated defeats owing to Napoleon's military mastery, the desire of their governments for revenge continued to grow. This desire was fuelled on the one hand by Napoleon's determination to build a French Empire in an attempt to unify a divided Europe, on the other hand to force the English government to share its control of the seas. Too often overlooked is the singular fact that in the first decade of the nineteenth century Britain controlled five-eighths of the world's surface – its oceans – compared to Napoleon's relatively slight and always tenuous holdings. Since the English government had no intention of relinquishing its rule of the seas, the results were inevitable. It was the English crown that spent millions of pounds sterling in subsidising a series of armed coalitions to make war on the French tyrant. And because of Napoleon's strategic errors, both military and political, it was the English crown that emerged the winner.

SOURCE 5
(From David Chandler, *On the Napoleonic Wars*, published in 1994)
To a large extent, Napoleon must bear responsibility for the collapse of his Empire. Many, many reasons besides the few treated here could be discussed. The deterioration of his army as it steadily became an international force after 1805; the failure to contain the Royal Navy; the ever-growing problems of command and control; the improvement in Napoleon's opponents – the Arch-Duke Charles, Kutusov and, above all, Wellington – whilst his own military concepts stagnated. As Napoleon himself said, 'I have fought sixty battles, but I know no more now than I knew at the beginning.' All these features – and more – account for the ending of the Napoleonic Wars in 1814. The roots of the failure were within Napoleon himself. He in fact spoke his own epitaph as early as 1805. Speaking of a failing general of dragoons, he said: 'Ordener is worn out. One has only a certain time for war. Another five or six years and even I must call a stop.' Six years from 1805 brings us to the eve of 1812 – and Russia. From that great disaster onwards it was just a question of time.

Use sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge.
How far do you agree that once the Allies had settled their differences and coordinated their action against Napoleon, his defeat was merely a matter of time? Explain your answer, using the evidence of sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

Source 4
(From Michael Broers. Europe Under Napoleon, published in 1996.)
‘Although military historians point to the inevitability of Napoleon’s defeat, this was not the view from the allied trenches in the winter of 1814. As with Eugene in Milan a few weeks later, Napoleon’s fall was political rather than military. It was engineered from within. Those closest to Napoleon: Fouche, Talleyrand, the marshals and the Senate knew it was impossible to make him accept reasonable terms. To most of the allied commanders, however, the French guns seemed perilously close at times. Seen in this context of Napoleon rampant rather than at bay- the allied declaration made at Chaumont to fight on for another nine years if necessary, appears as an act of nervous defiance. When this is coupled with the willingness they showed-in virtually the same breath- to offer Napoleon peace, his throne and the borders of 1792, there unease is clear to see.’

Source 5
(From D.G. Wright. Napoleon and Europe, published in 1984.)
‘With the allies resolved to continue the war, Napoleon was doomed. Many Frenchmen began to believe that he was acting out of regard for his own intense egoism rather than the interests of their country. Commercial confidences lumped; opposition arose in the Legislature, which objected to further tax increases and demanded civil and political liberties, as well as a peace settlement. Napoleon’s response was to prorogue the Legislature. As he wrote to Savary: ‘I want no tribunes of the people; let them not forget that I am the great tribune.’ Some of his chief subordinates now defected, most notably Murat, who pledged the Kingdom of Naples to the allied cause. Nevertheless, Napoleon insisted on fighting to the bitter end. Having suffered 400,000 casualties in 1813, with Wellington pinning down a force of 200,000 in Spain, the Emperor needed to raise yet another army for the 1814 campaign by every possible expedient, including the conscription of army pensioners and young teenagers. There was a great deal of resistance.’
Use sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge.
How far do you agree that once the Allies had settled their differences and coordinated their action against Napoleon, his defeat was merely a matter of time? Explain your answer, using the evidence of sources 4 and 5 and your own knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(40)

Source 4
(From Michael Broers. Europe Under Napoleon, published in 1996.)
‘Although military historians point to the inevitability of Napoleon’s defeat, this was not the view from the allied trenches in the winter of 1814. As with Eugene in Milan a few weeks later, Napoleon’s fall was political rather than military. It was engineered from within. Those closest to Napoleon: Fouche, Talleyrand, the marshals and the Senate knew it was impossible to make him accept reasonable terms. To most of the allied commanders, however, the French guns seemed perilously close at times. Seen in this context-of Napoleon rampant rather than at bay- the allied declaration made at Chaumont to fight on for another nine years if necessary, appears as an act of nervous defiance. When this is coupled with the willingness they showed-in virtually the same breath- to offer Napoleon peace, his throne and the borders of 1792, there unease is clear to see.’

Source 5
(From D.G. Wright. Napoleon and Europe, published in 1984.)
‘With the allies resolved to continue the war, Napoleon was doomed. Many Frenchmen began to believe that he was acting out of regard for his own intense egoism rather than the interests of their country. Commercial confidences lumped; opposition arose in the Legislature, which objected to further tax increases and demanded civil and political liberties, as well as a peace settlement. Napoleon’s response was to prorogue the Legislature. As he wrote to Savary: ‘I want no tribunes of the people; let them not forget that I am the great tribune.’ Some of his chief subordinates now defected, most notably Murat, who pledged the Kingdom of Naples to the allied cause. Nevertheless, Napoleon insisted on fighting to the bitter end. Having suffered 400,000 casualties in 1813, with Wellington pinning down a force of 200,000 in Spain, the Emperor needed to raise yet another army for the 1814 campaign by every possible expedient, including the conscription of army pensioners and young teenagers. There was a great deal of resistance.’