

Napoleon Bonaparte Historical Sources

1. For each of the sources below, circle the word that correctly identifies the type of source (10 marks)

Source 1

Painting titled 'Napoleon Crossing the Alps', 1801 by Jacques Louis David

PRIMARY

SECONDARY



Source 2

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Napoleon+I> - retrieved 7th April 2017

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

Na·po·le·on I

Originally **Napoleon Bonaparte**. Known as "**the Little Corporal**." 1769-1821. Emperor of the French and King of Italy (1804-1814). A brilliant military strategist, he overthrew the French Directory (1799) and proclaimed himself first consul and, later, emperor (1804). His military and political might gripped Continental Europe, but after a disastrous winter campaign in Russia (1812), he was forced to abdicate (1814). Having been exiled to the island of Elba, he escaped, briefly regained power, and was ultimately defeated at Waterloo (1815) and exiled for life to the island of St. Helena. His codification of laws, the Napoleonic Code, still forms the basis of French civil law.

Source 3

Gold coin from 1813

PRIMARY

SECONDARY



Source 4

Speech made by Napoleon to his troops in Italy in April 1796

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

In a fortnight you have won six victories, taken twenty-one standards, fifty-five pieces
plains in the world. Rich provinces, great of artillery, several strong positions, and conquered the
richest part of Piedmont [a region in northern Italy]; you have captured 15,000 prisoners and killed
or wounded more than 10,000 men. . . .

You have won battles without cannon, crossed rivers without bridges, made forced marches
without shoes, camped without brandy and often without bread. Soldiers of liberty, only republican
phalanxes [infantry troops] could have endured what you have endured. Soldiers, you have our
thanks! The grateful *Patrie* [nation] will owe its prosperity to you. . . .

The two armies which but recently attacked you with audacity are fleeing before you in terror; the
wicked men who laughed at your misery and rejoiced at the thought of the triumphs of your
enemies are confounded and trembling.

But, soldiers, as yet you have done nothing compared with what remains to be done. . . .

. . . Undoubtedly the greatest obstacles have been overcome; but you still have battles to fight,
cities to capture, rivers to cross. Is there one among you whose courage is abating? No. . . . All of
you are consumed with a desire to extend the glory of the French people; all of you long to
humiliate those arrogant kings who dare to contemplate placing us in fetters; all of you desire to
dictate a glorious peace, one which will indemnify the *Patrie* for the immense sacrifices it has
made; all of you wish to be able to say with pride as you return to your villages, "I was with the
victorious army of Italy!"

Friends, I promise you this conquest; but there is one condition you must swear to fulfill—to respect the people whom you liberate, to repress the horrible pillaging committed by scoundrels incited by our enemies. Otherwise you would not be the liberators of the people; you would be their scourge. . . . Plunderers will be shot without mercy; already, several have been. . . .

Source 5

British silent movie poster from 1927

PRIMARY

SECONDARY



Source 6

British cartoon from 1814 'stripping other countries assets to ward off the bankruptcy of the French exchequer'

PRIMARY

SECONDARY



Source 7

John Adams was an American, (1735-1826), a well-read teacher and lawyer, championed American independence and wrote this comment about Napoleon

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

What a mighty bubble!! What a tremendous Waterspout has Napoleon been according to his Life written by himself? He says he was the Creature of the Principles and Manners of the Age. By which no doubt he means the Age of Reason. I believe him. A Whirlwind raised him and a Whirlwind blew him away to St. Helena. He is very confident that the Age of Reason is not past, and so am I; but I hope that reason will never again rashly and hastily create such Creatures as him. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and Humanity will never again, I hope, blindly surrender themselves to an unbounded Ambition for national Conquests, nor implicitly commit themselves to the custody and Guardianship of Arms and Heroes. If they do, they will again end in St. Helena.

Source 8

Extract from the memoir of Armand-Augustin-Louis, Marquis de Caulaincourt, Duke of Vicenza (9 December 1773 – 19 February 1827) was a French soldier, diplomat, grand officer of the Grand Orient de France and close personal aide to Napoleon. He wrote his memoir in the 1820s but it was lost and not published until it was rediscovered after World War 1 in 1933.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

The Emperor occupied himself with the most minute details. He wanted everything to bear the imprint of his genius. He would send for me to receive his orders for headquarters, for the orderly officers, for his staff officers, for the letters, for the couriers, postal service etc. The commanding officers of the guard, the controller of the army commissariat, Larrey, the excellent surgeon-general; all were summoned at least once a day. Nothing escaped his attention...he had an astonishing memory for localities. The topography of a country seemed to be modelled in relief in his head. Never did any man combine such a memory with a more creative genius. He seemed to extract men, horses and guns from the very bowels of the earth.

But his creative genius had no knowledge of conserving its forces. Always improvising, in a few days he would consume, exhaust and disorganize by the rapidity of his marches, the whole of what his genius had created.

Source 9

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/nov/29/france.jonhenley>

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

Napoleon massacred more than 100,000 Caribbean slaves and should be remembered as a genocidal dictator and inspiration for Hitler rather than a military genius and founder of modern France, a French historian said yesterday.

"I refuse to bow down before the statue any longer, I have opened my eyes," said Claude Ribbe, a respected black academic and part of a governmental commission on human rights whose book,

Napoleon's Crime, is published this week, on the bicentenary of the emperor's great triumph at the battle of Austerlitz this Friday.

"A kind of generalised self-censorship exists about this man in France ... he furthered the emergence of all the racist and pseudo-scientific theories of the 19th century that were subsequently taken up by the Nazis."

The book includes first hand officers' accounts describing the methods ordered by Napoleon to stamp out a slave revolt on the then French Caribbean island of Haiti, and in Guadeloupe. The basic strategy, he said, was to "exterminate every black on the islands over 12" and replace them with docile imports from Africa. The rebels were killed, but thousands of innocents were shot, drowned, savaged by dogs or gassed in the holds of slaveships.

"He had great qualities, of that there's no doubt," Mr Lurel said. "But Napoleon also did some wholly abominable things."

Source 10

Photographs of Napoleon's Tomb in Paris – Google images 2017

Les Invalides is a complex of buildings containing museums and monuments, all relating to the military history of France.

Napoleon was initially interred on Saint Helena, but King Louis Philippe arranged for his remains to be brought to France in 1840, an event known as *le retour des cendres*. Napoléon's remains were first buried in the *Chapelle Saint-Jérôme* in the Invalides until his final resting place, a tomb made of red quartzite and resting on a green granite base, was finished in 1861.

PRIMARY



SECONDARY



Name: _____

1. Identify the type of source from the booklet

Source	Write Primary or Secondary
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Total:

3.(a) What problems would a historian have using Source 6 as a reliable source of information about Napoleon? In your response, consider the usefulness and reliability of the source. (5 marks)

3. (b) How do Sources 7 and 8 differ in their view of Napoleon? Which source is more reliable, and why? (5 marks)

MARKING CRITERIA QUESTION 2	MARK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of Napoleon's life and his achievements • Effectively uses the sources provided to compose a logical response • Uses accurate and relevant historical information and an effective use of historical terms and concepts. 	9 - 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a firm understanding of Napoleon's life and his achievements • Uses the sources provided to compose a structured response • Provides relevant historical information and uses historical terms and concepts appropriately. 	7 - 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates substantial understanding of Napoleon's life and his achievements • Uses some of the sources provided • Provides adequate and relevant historical information and incorporates historical terms. 	5 - 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some understanding of Napoleon's life and his achievements • Narrative account with little reference to the sources • Provides basic historical information and has some historical terms. 	3 - 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to understand Napoleon's life and his achievements • Response is basic with few facts. 	1 - 2

MARKING CRITERIA QUESTION 3a	MARK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an accurate analysis of the usefulness and reliability • Response has a clear and logical structure 	4 - 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a satisfactory analysis of the usefulness and reliability • Response makes one or two points 	2 - 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question is attempted 	1

MARKING CRITERIA QUESTION 3b	MARK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a clear distinction between the two sources • Effectively responds to Why? and Which is more reliable? 	4 - 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a difference between the two sources • Attempts only one of Why? or Which is more reliable? 	2 - 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question is attempted 	1