**SIX Rules to follow for successful Cambridge history essays**

**1.** You **MUST** understand what the question is asking. If you don’t, you cannot supply

the information and analysis necessary for a successful essay.

**2.** For an A essay, you need to think of at **LEAST TWO** major topics to address when

answering the question. You will need at **LEAST THREE** major topics to properly

address B essay questions.

**3.** For B essays, you **MUST** examine **BOTH SIDES** of the question.

**4.** You **MUST** brainstorm **HARD FACTS** for evidence when proving your answer. At the

least, three to five hard facts should be introduced, on point, for each topic you have. The more, the better!

**HARD FACTS** are names, places, dates, events, laws, names of documents.

\*If you can’t think of a specific date, give an approximation. For example, if you couldn’t

remember that Napoleon rose to the position of First Consul in 1799, write ...Napoleon

became First Consul in the late 1790’s. (That still counts as two facts!)

**5.** Lastly, you **NEED** to demonstrate how your facts are being used to directly answer the

question. You must show **ANALYSIS**.

If your question was, “Evaluate how Napoleon’s actions were consistent to the ideals of

the French Revolution.” After explaining what suffrage and the Concordat were about,

use those facts as analysis by writing:

‘Personal liberties such as freedom of religion and extended suffrage were huge goals of

the revolution, therefore proving that Napoleon’s signing the Concordat and and

extension of suffrage rights were loyal to revolutionary beliefs.

**6.** Don’t use “I,” “me,” or “myself” in your essays. Cambridge graders don’t care about your

opinion. They want to know what you can prove.

**EXAMPLE**:

Instead of-

“I think Napoleon was a supporter of the revolution because he granted suffrage to all

adult males and brought relative religious freedom to France.”

Do this:

“Napoleon was a supporter of the revolution because he granted suffrage to all adult

males and brought relative religious freedom to France.”