

## 2. What does this extract reveal about the lives of missionaries in Iraq in this period?

### *Criteria Assessed*

The Question relates to the following criteria:

- Careful and critical reading
- Historical imagination
- Originality
- Precision, clarity and facility of writing

N.B. Candidates are NOT expected to write a cogent or structured piece of writing about the source, though they are expected to express themselves clearly and accurately. They have been directed not to introduce extraneous material in their answers.

### *Key themes arising from the source:*

A number of themes in answer to the question can be derived from this document, though we would not necessarily expect even the strongest candidates to cover all of these themes, and they may be able to find others.

1. *A key theme concerns the multiple functions of the household in everyday life in the region.*

The household appears to act as a way-station for merchants and diplomats from Europe, many of whom ‘have nowhere else to stay’. This sense of people always passing through suggests the central location of Baghdad as a stopping point between the desert and locations further east such as India and Persia. The household also contains a church, which betrays its use as a place of worship. Given the presence of a diverse range of provisions, fabrics, and objects, the house also appears to act as a site for storing goods.

### *Spectrum of performance:*

A poor treatment of this theme is one that fails to capture a sense of the multiple functions of the household. Instead, weaker answers might not pick up on the use of the household by travellers, or they may draw on external information not suggested in the inventory. Stronger answers will appreciate both the diverse functions of the household as well as its geographic importance, even if they cannot pinpoint the exact location of the household. The strongest answers will acknowledge the ambiguity of some these functions as described by the inventory—e.g., is the church used only by the missionaries, do locals know of the storage of these goods (hence, the seizure)—and they might even use these details as a basis for making wider points about the limits of the inventory as a historical source.

2. *Another key theme is the nature of the interests, functions, and pastimes of the missionaries.*

The inventory emphasises the range of activities engaged in by the missionaries, specifically their roles as doctors and merchants. The ubiquity of ‘surgical and medical

instruments' in the inventory, along with instruments used for the making of 'remedies', points to their interests in practicing medicine—although it is not indicated for whom they are acting as doctors. That they spend their time in study is also suggested from the books held in the household. Given the large amount of provisions and the relatively small size of the household, some candidates might suggest that the missionaries might be involved in trade or commerce. The reference to watches 'deposited by merchants' suggests that they are even making small loans to other merchants. Generally, the material culture on display suggests a rather wealthy household in possession of several objects of value such as a clock, watches, rich fabric, and an array of precious stones and materials.

*Spectrum of performance:*

A poor treatment of this theme might simply indicate the involvement of missionaries in conversion, without making any reference to evidence in the text. Stronger candidates might express surprise at the absence of religious books or at the fact that these missionaries act as doctors and merchants, and they will use these details to make wider, analytical points about the nature of missionary work in this period. The strongest answers will acknowledge the ambiguity of some of this evidence, e.g., is the 'Turkish sword' a weapon or a gift, to whom do the missionaries act as doctors, what sorts of books might be contained in the library?

3. *A third theme centres on the perseverance of connections between the Catholic missionaries and European society, in particular the French state.*

The inventory suggests close ties linking the missionaries to the French state. This is expressed, for example, through the painting of Louis XIV as well as the references to links to the French trading companies and 'Mr Caré sent by the King', presumably a diplomat. There is also a suggestion of the household's connections to a wider network of Catholic missionaries, glimpsed briefly in the reference to another missionary household in Mosul. These details suggest the importance of the household in relation to wider aspects of French foreign policy, trade, and international relations.

*Spectrum of performance:*

A poor treatment of this theme will fail to recognise the connections that link the missionary household to society back in France. Similarly, some weaker answers may refer to these links, but they might introduce external information, e.g., by speculating about who sent the missionaries to Baghdad. Stronger answers will acknowledge the connections to King and Company, but they will lack sophistication or stop short of making wider analysis based on these details. The strongest answers might reflect real historical imagination, commenting, for example, on the mutual interests and shared goals of missionaries, the state, and merchants.

4. *One further theme is the missionaries' integration into local Ottoman culture.*

The inventory expresses this theme in a subtle way, primarily with reference to material culture such as objects that are marked as 'Turkish', 'Persian', or 'Indian' (e.g., carpets, swords, and fabric). Local, Ottoman units of measurement are used throughout the inventory, as well as the usage of 'Frank' to refer to Europeans—which suggests a certain rootedness of the missionaries in the Ottoman world. Some of these details might seem surprising to some candidates, such as the use of Turkish and Persian carpets to decorate the church. In addition, there is at least a vague sense of some relationship

between the missionaries and the ‘people of this country’, perhaps referring back to the missionaries’ roles as doctors.

*Spectrum of performance:*

This is one of the more subtle themes to emerge from the document, and it is useful for assessing candidates who show an especially critical reading of the text and attention to detail and nuance. Some candidates might show imagination in accounting for these details: for example, some might suggest that these ties to Ottoman subjects are simply a function of the geographic position of the household, while others might read them as meaningful signs of the missionaries’ integration into local, Ottoman culture. The strongest answers might even engage with wider questions of identity and culture of the missionaries as intermediaries between Europe and the Ottoman Empire.

*Discussion of these items raises at least two interrelated points:*

- The first concerns the nature of relations between the Catholic missionaries and the ruling authorities in the Ottoman Empire. Although the inventory does not provide any context or background to the seizure of the missionary’s goods, there is some suggestion that this event is part of a wider history of interactions as suggested by the reference to the household in Mosul having previously been ‘razed to the ground’. There is no indication, however, that this dispute is motivated by any intrinsic confessional disputes, i.e., a ‘clash of civilisations’ between Christians and Muslims.
- The second point concerns the status of the document itself. For what purpose was the inventory composed? Some candidates will note the use of the first-person (e.g. ‘a silver chalice that we no longer use’ in item 17) as well as a general sense that whoever compiled this list knew the objects well. The inventory also opens up other questions about typicality and the limits of this type of source as a window into the ‘life of missionaries’, and some candidates might contest the reliability or usefulness of the document. Stronger answers might even reflect on the possibility of multiple interpretations of particular objects.

*Marking Scheme*

The marking scheme below is intended to provide markers with the flexibility to reward answers that stand out, particularly in terms of originality and historical imagination. Given the emphasis on material culture, some candidates may interpret specific objects in unpredictable or surprising ways, which are, nonetheless, reasonable within the wider context of the passage. Candidates should not be penalised for singular interpretations, so long as they are backed up by evidence from the inventory.

**27-40 marks:**

For 27-40 marks, candidates will show that they have read the text closely, accurately and thoughtfully and they are correspondingly able to say something about a number of the themes raised above.

1. They will link their analysis consistently to specific evidence from the text, and they will engage with some of the general themes above. The higher marks in this band will do so with real sophistication and clarity.
2. They will express historical imagination and/or originality in their analysis of the inventory and particular objects, especially at the higher marks within this band.

3. Some of the strongest answers in this band might even engage with issues of source criticism, that is, by raising issues of authorship, the purpose of the inventory, the limits of using such a document, or the multiple interpretations possible when working with material culture (although they will not necessarily use such terms to do so).

In particular, candidates in this band will use the source *consistently* as the basis for a wider analysis of the themes above, for example, what the inventory reveals about the nature of missionary work; the relationship between trade, diplomacy, and evangelization; or issues related to confessional identity in Baghdad in this period .

**14-26 marks:**

For 14-26 marks, candidates will focus mainly on describing everyday life in Baghdad, without the sophistication or thematic analysis of candidates in the higher band. They will have made some sense of the text and touched on some of the issues raised by it, but their judgements and speculations, though relevant, may be less penetrating, less clearly expressed, or less sustainable (but still somewhat sustainable) from the text. They may have engaged with one or more of the main themes, but they will be less effective at developing their analysis around specific objects and evidence from the inventory. Their treatment of specific themes may be less analytical or precise, as described in the spectrums of performance.

**0-13 marks:**

For 0-13 marks, candidates will more or less have failed to offer any analysis of the text, writing comments that simply reproduce what is in it, or are substantially inaccurate. Answers in this category may simply hone in on a few particular objects (or group them together)—i.e., ‘what the missionaries owned’—presenting them as mere objects without using them for any wider analysis linked to the themes above. Answers in this band may also suffer from the introduction of external knowledge or unreasonable speculation not backed up by evidence from the text. Similarly, some answers in this band may be too short, or poorly expressed. They may simply reproduce a list of observations, without a more comprehensive sense of the wider significance of the inventory as an historical source.