

Source A

‘Men of genius are meteors destined to be consumed in illuminating their century.’

- Napoleon, 1790

Source B

‘Work is my element. I was born and made for work. I have recognised the limits of my eye-sight and of my legs, but never the limits of my working power.’

- Napoleon describing his attitude to work. Napoleon often worked up to 24 hours straight.



Source C

A depiction of Napoleon leading the charge over the Arcole bridge in the Italy, 1796. Previous attempts to cross had failed incurring heavy losses.

Source D

‘All who met him were instantly struck by his natural authority and above all by his large greyish-blue deep-seated eyes which had an almost hypnotic effect. In manner he could be charming, considerate, crude or in turn vulgar, and almost invariably outspoken, yet he had it in his power to place in thrall the soul of almost any man or women he encountered.’

- David Chandler, *Napoleon*, 1973

Source E

'Different subjects and different affairs are arranged in my head as in a cupboard. When I wish to interrupt one train of thought, I shut that drawer and open another. Do I wish to sleep? I simply close the doors and there I am – asleep.'

- Napoleon on his work patterns – he would often dictate to as many as four different secretaries on separate subjects while in the bath. At the French Empire's height he managed domestic affairs as well as directing military campaigns and diplomacy across Europe.

Source F

It was his political genius, as it is generally agreed to call it, to combine his own clear and strongly held personal ideas and convictions, reinforced by his great individual prestige, with a sure sense of the necessary and the possible in revolutionary France—after ten years of revolution. "My policy is to govern men as the great number wish to be governed. That, I think, is the way to recognize the sovereignty of the people."

- Louis Bergeron, *France Under Napoleon*, 1981

Source G

'So it that I, who fear neither God nor Devil, am ready to tremble like a child when I approach him.'

- General Vandamme, one of Napoleon's generals.

Source H

'reserved and hardworking... silent, capricious, proud, extremely egotistical... much self-esteem... extremely ambitious.'

- From a Napoleon's military school report, Brienne.

Source I

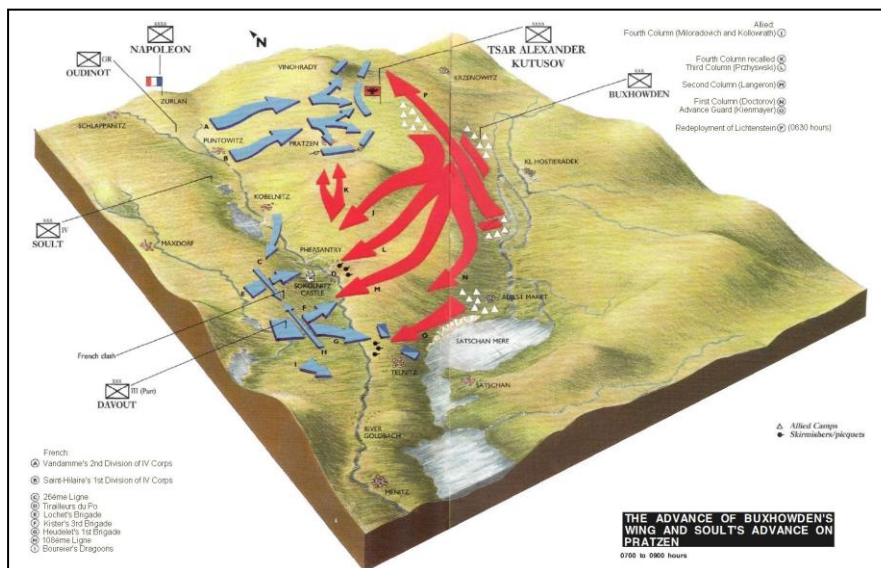
‘Soldiers, you are naked and ill-fed; though the [French] government owe you much, it can give you nothing... but... I will lead you into the most fertile plains in the world. Rich provinces, great cities will be in your power; you will find there honour, glory and riches...’

- An extract from a speech in 1796 given to the newly appointed general of the French Army in Italy – then a poorly equipped, secondary force.

Source J

One outstanding element of his talent was sheer professional mastery. Trained as a gunner, in later life he claimed that he could still cast both cannon and shot [cannon balls], manufacture gunpowder and construct gun carriages and limbers. This interest in the minutiae of military affairs was part of the quest for perfect thoroughness...

- David Chandler, *Napoleon*, 1973



Source K

A map of the battle of Austerlitz, 1805. Napoleon outmanoeuvred a larger army commanded by Austrian and Russian generals – the allied army was destroyed as it was caught by Napoleon with its back to a frozen lake.