



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U60-1



S23-2100U60-1

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 6

France in revolution c.1774–1815

**Part 1: France: the causes and course of revolution
c.1774–1792**

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

Answer **both** questions

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the causes of the French Revolution, 1776–1789. [30]

Source A The Austrian Ambassador, in a secret dispatch to the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, mother of the Queen (1776)

Among the rumours which circulate contrary to the prestige and reputation essential to a queen of France, there is one which appears more dangerous and unpleasant than the rest. It is complained quite openly that the Queen is extravagant and encourages extravagance. The public at first viewed with pleasure the King's gift of the Trianon to the Queen; but it began to be disturbed and alarmed by Her Majesty's expenditure there. By her order the gardens have been completely changed into an English garden, which cost at least 150,000 livres. The Queen has had a theatre built at the Trianon; she has only presented one play there, followed by a supper, but this entertainment was very expensive. The Queen's allowance has been doubled, and yet she has contracted debts. The chief cause of the Queen's debts is known and excites no fewer outcries and complaints. The Queen has bought many diamonds, and her card playing has become very costly.

Source B Daniel Hailes, a secretary in the British Embassy in Paris, in a private letter to the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carmarthen (16 August 1787)

The Parlement of Paris, and indeed all the other Parlements of the Kingdom, continue to be motivated by the same spirit of opposition to the measure of the Court that has expressed itself clearly ever since the dissolution of the Assembly of Notables. The protection of the people from an increase of taxes is the ground that has been ... carefully chosen by the Parlement on which to rest their disobedience; but I have reason to think that the establishment of the provincial Assemblies throughout the Kingdom ... is the real, though concealed, motive of their conduct ... If, as it is imagined, these provincial assemblies should in future contribute to the limitation of the authority of the King, there can be no doubt that they will affect the authority of the Parlements, whose existence is almost equal in age with the monarchy itself.

Source C The *Cahier de doléances* [list of grievances] drawn up by the village of Le Revest before the meeting of the Estates General (March 1789)

The deputies who will elect the Third Order to attend and vote at the Estates General of France will be expressly instructed to petition for the reform of the civil and criminal code ... They will request the right for the Third Estate, of whatsoever order they may be, to qualify for all military posts, honours and pensions [that are at present] confined to the nobility; that no exemptions be given from the payment of any dues and impositions that are owed to the King. They will request: a reduction in the price of salt, to make it uniform throughout the kingdom; the power to grow tobacco on our lands; the right of the Third Estate to have as many members as the first two orders combined; a general tax upon all property, both real and personal, to be collected in the same manner and form; the sending of money due to the King directly from the Province to the treasury of the State.

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Historians have made different interpretations about the **extent and success of changes made by the National Assembly**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the changes made by the National Assembly were successful? [30]

Interpretation 1 Eric Hobsbawm, in this extract from his book *The Age of Revolution: Europe 1789–1848* (1962), provides an interpretation focusing on the long-term impact of the changes made by the National Assembly.

Between 1789 and 1791 the victorious, moderate bourgeoisie, acting through what had now become the [National] Constituent Assembly, set about the gigantic rationalization and reform of France, which was its object. Most of the lasting institutional achievements of the Revolution date from this period, as do its most striking international results, the metric system, and the pioneer emancipation of the Jews.

Interpretation 2 Thomas Carlyle, in this extract from his book *The French Revolution: a History* (1837), provides an interpretation focusing on the National Assembly's limited attempt to introduce changes.

One thing an elected Assembly of twelve hundred is fit for is destroying. Which indeed is a consequence of its natural talent for doing nothing. Do nothing, only keep agitating, debating, and all things will destroy themselves. So it proved with the National Assembly. It took the name Constituent, as if its mission and function had been to construct and build which it tried to do with its whole soul. Yet it achieved the very opposite to that.

END OF PAPER