

473/07

HISTORY – HI3

UNIT 3

IN-DEPTH STUDY 7

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, c. 1774-1795

A.M. THURSDAY, 12 January 2006

(1 hour 30 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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IN-DEPTH STUDY 7

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, c. 1774-1795

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

SECTION A

Answer **one** question

1. The Terror and the Thermidorians.

Study the source below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon it.

‘I saw the ancien régime in Nantes; the energy of the sans-culottes has been stifled and true republicans weep with despair for having seen despotism reborn, civil war seems to be smouldering in the bosom of so many horrors; an open conflict is already breaking out between Carrier’s staff and the popular clubs.

- 5 Carrier must be brought to justice. He has made terror the order of the day even against patriots. He keeps very bad company. He has, by an outrageous order, closed the meeting of a Montagnard Society for three days. He gave the job of meeting a deputation from the Society to an insolent secretary. He has ordered the arrest, at night, of those who criticised him. They were then brought before him and beaten and threatened with death. I am assured that he had all those who filled the
10 prisons of Nantes taken out, put in boats and sunk in the Loire. He told me to my face that that was the only way to run a revolution, and he called Prieur de la Marne a fool for thinking of nothing to do with suspects except imprison them.’

[From a letter written by Marc-Antoine Julien to Maximilien Robespierre. Julien was one of Robespierre’s personal agents sent to report on events in Nantes (February 1794)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the term ‘sans-culottes’ (line 1). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about how Robespierre viewed the conduct of the Representatives on Mission? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of the Terror and the Thermidorians? [20]
(*You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.*)

2. The overthrow of the Monarchy and the First Republic, 1789-1792.

Study the source below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon it.

‘The news from the war was bad. Paris was in the grip of suspicion and the air was heavy with the fear of betrayal. My intention was to step aside from the other prisoners so that, being seen standing by myself, those nearest the table might overlook me and I might escape at the first opportunity. The killers had already murdered many important priests and officials in the Church. I was becoming unaware of other victims and could only think of myself, although I was able to see many of my companions being slaughtered in the light of the many torches illuminating this grisly sight. In shame, I must confess, that despite my imminent danger, my last moments apparently so close, I was not wholly concentrating on God, or resigned to death. Indeed the very opposite. I did not cease scheming my escape from the terrifying massacre. Those blows from sabres, jabs from pikes and other weapons, although they terrified me, they did not turn my thoughts directly towards God. When fear overcame me, I could only repeat to myself, ‘What can I do to dodge the question about taking the oath to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy?’ Sometimes the massacres were halted for the killers to hear the news coming from other Sections, reporting the massacres in their own prisons.’

[The Abbé de Salmon, a survivor of the September massacres, writing in his *Mémoire* (1800)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the phrase ‘Civil Constitution of the Clergy’ (line 12). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about why the massacres were taking place? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of the overthrow of the Monarchy and the First Republic, 1789-1792? [20]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.)

SECTION B

Answer **one** question.

3. The Ancien Régime and the causes of the French Revolution 1774-1789.

Study the sources below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon them.

Source A

‘I admire the conduct of your young King who has not been shaken by the conspiracies of evil-intentioned men. This quality of firmness will strengthen his administration in the years to come. Those who are keen on change have been trying him out.’

[From a letter written by Fredrick the Great, King of Prussia, to the writer d’Alembert following the disturbances known as the Flour Wars (17 May 1775)]

Source B

‘Louis XVI was an amiable character who came to the throne wanting to be loved. This pathetic passion survived even the grim Flour Wars that disturbed the early part of his reign. He bowed to pressure and replaced the tough ministers of Louis XV with timid reformers who he hoped would introduce political and financial reforms.’

[From Simon Schama’s history of the French Revolution, *Citizens* (1989)]

Source C

‘By succeeding in rendering America free, France has so exhausted herself that in her triumph, having sought to humiliate English pride, she has ruined herself and now sees her finances exhausted, her credit diminished, the Ministry divided and the whole Kingdom in faction.’

[From a secret report by J.F.H. Oldencop, the Russian Consul in Amsterdam to his government in St. Petersburg (1788)]

Source D

‘His Majesty proposes a general land tax which, covering the whole area of the kingdom, would consist of a proportion of all produce payable in kind where feasible, otherwise in money and admitting no exemptions even as regards crown lands, nor of any other distinctions other than those resulting from the varying fertility of the soil and the varying harvests.’

[From a speech by Calonne, Controller-General of finances, introducing financial reforms (22 February 1787)]

Source E



[Contemporary print of popular disturbances in Grenoble known as the Day of Tiles (7 June 1788)]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. In what ways do Sources A and B show contrasting views of the young Louis XVI? [8]
- (b) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D as evidence to an historian studying the financial crisis in France during the Ancien Régime? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of the overthrow of the Ancien Régime and the causes of the French Revolution 1774-1789? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the sources.)

4. The work of the National Assembly, 1789-1791.

Study the sources below carefully, and then answer the questions based upon them.

Source A

‘Frenchmen assembled beyond the frontiers of the Kingdom are now declared suspect of conspiracy against the nation. If they are still assembled on 1 January next, they shall be declared guilty of conspiracy. They shall be prosecuted as such and punished with death. The income of conspirators who are condemned for contempt of court shall be seized during their lifetime for the benefit of the nation.’

[From a Government Decree ordering émigrés to return to France (9 November 1791)]

Source B

‘The cruel law against the émigrés forced me to make use of the veto, the necessity of this has been recognized by a large part of the nation. The people regard the émigrés who aim at counter-revolution as the greatest enemies, and the surest way of making the King unpopular is to present him as being in league with and favoring the plans of the émigrés.’

[From a letter written by Louis XVI to his close adviser Breteuil (December 1791)]

Source C

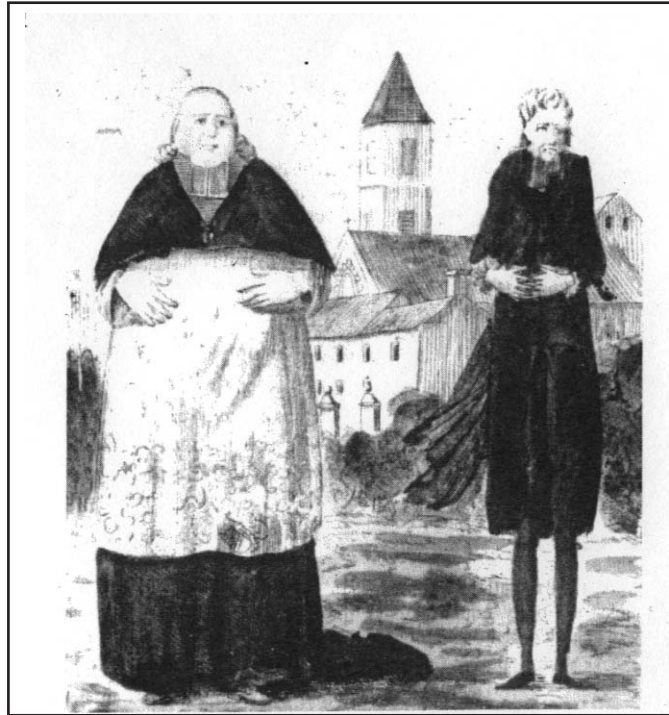
‘The reign of the priests has passed and the more efforts they make to support the tottering remains of ecclesiastical power, the sooner they will bring about its collapse.’

[From *La Revolution de Paris*, a French radical newspaper which was very supportive of the work of the National Assembly (July 1790)]

Source D

‘The Jacobin Society is truly the committee of inquiry of the nation, less dangerous to good citizens than the National Assembly, because all its debates and speeches are public. It covers by its correspondence with fellow societies all the corners of the 83 departments of France.’

[From an article by Camille Desmoulins, a leading Jacobin, in his own newspaper (14 February 1791)]

Source E

[A contemporary cartoon showing a clergyman before and after the Revolution, c. 1791]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. How do Sources A and B show contrasting views of the émigrés? [8]
- (b) Study sources C and E. How reliable are Sources C and E as evidence to an historian studying religious policy during 1789-1791? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of the work National Assembly during the period 1789-1791? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the sources.)