



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

473/07

**HISTORY – HI3
UNIT 3
IN-DEPTH STUDY 7
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION,
c. 1774-1795**

P.M. FRIDAY, 11 January 2008
(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.

UNIT 3

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

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

‘The most striking of the country’s troubles was the chaos in its finances, the result of years of extravagance intensified by the expense of the American War of Independence, which had cost the state over twelve hundred million *livres*. No one could think of any remedy but a search for fresh funds, as the old ones were exhausted. M. de Calonne, Minister of Finance, had conceived a bold and wide-ranging plan. This was put to the King, who gave it his approval and promised to support its implementation with the full weight of his authority. This plan changed the whole previous system of financial administration and attacked all its vices at their root. The worst of these were; the arbitrary system of allocation, the oppressive cost of collection, and the abuse of privilege by the richest section of taxpayers. This abuse extended not merely to the great and influential of the realm, but to the first orders of the state, that is the nobility, to the provinces, and to the towns, so that the whole weight of public expenditure was borne by the most numerous but least wealthy part of the nation, which was crushed by the burden. The plan was to be endorsed by an Assembly of Notables. It was welcome to the King. The Notables were summoned for 29 January 1787: I was appointed to this Assembly: it had not met since 1626, in the reign of Louis XIII.’

[The Marquis de Bouille, a French military commander who later went into exile in Russia, writing in his memoirs (1799)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the term ‘Assembly of Notables’ (lines 12-13). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about the need for reform in France before 1789? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of the Ancien Régime and the causes of the French Revolution? [20]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the source.)

2. The work of the National Assembly, 1789-1792.

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

- ‘Gentlemen, for a time I was uncertain whether I should express my views on the provisions which you appear to have adopted. But I saw that I had either to defend the cause of liberty and the nation, or betray it by my silence. Why are we assembled here? Without the slightest doubt, to restore to the French nation the exercise of those rights which are the inheritance of every man.
- 5 Such is the objective of every political constitution. You yourselves recognised this truth in a striking manner in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. However I propose to attack your provisions. Is the law truly the expression of the general will when the great majority of those for whom it is made can have no part in its formulation? Are men equal when some possess the exclusive right to be elected members of the legislative body or other public institutions, others
- 10 merely the right to elect them, and the rest are deprived of all these rights at once? All men born and living in France are members of the French nation. They are so by the nature of things. The rights attaching to citizenship depend neither on the wealth of he who possesses it, not on the amount of taxation to which he is subject because the payment of taxes does not make us citizens. The people, that host of men whose cause I defend, have rights whose origin is the same as yours. Who gave you the power to deprive them of it?’

[From a speech given by Robespierre to the National Assembly, attacking proposals in the new Constitution regarding who would and would not be allowed to vote (March 1791)]

- (a) Explain **briefly** the meaning of the phrase ‘Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen’ (line 6). [4]
- (b) What does the source suggest about the political situation in 1791? [8]
- (c) How useful is the source to an understanding of the work of the National Assembly during the period 1789-1791? [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 overthrow of the Monarchy and the First Republic, 1789-1792.

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

Source A

‘We are under the knife of Robespierre and Marat. They are doing all they can to stir the people up. They have a little army which they bribe with what they found or stole from the Tuileries. Danton being the secret leader of this horde, he controls everything. If you knew the awful details of the killing expeditions! Women brutally raped before being torn to pieces by these tigers, guts cut out and worn as decorations.’

[From a letter written by Madame Roland, a moderate revolutionary, to her friend Bancal des Issarts (9 September 1792)]

Source B

‘The Commune of Paris hastens to inform its brothers in the Departments that many ferocious conspirators detained in its prisons have been put to death by the people – acts of justice which seemed essential to subdue hidden traitors when soldiers were about to march against the enemy. The whole nation will surely hasten to adopt this measure and proclaim as Paris has done: We will march on the enemy but we will not leave brigands behind to murder our wives and children.’

[From an article by Marat, an extreme Jacobin, published in the newspaper, *L’Ami du Peuple* (September 1792)]

Source C

‘The French émigrés have deceived our good King. They assured us that the counter-revolution would take place as soon as we showed our faces. They had also told us that the French troops of the line were a collection of riff-raff and that the National Guard would take to their heels at the first shot fired. Not a word of this was true.’

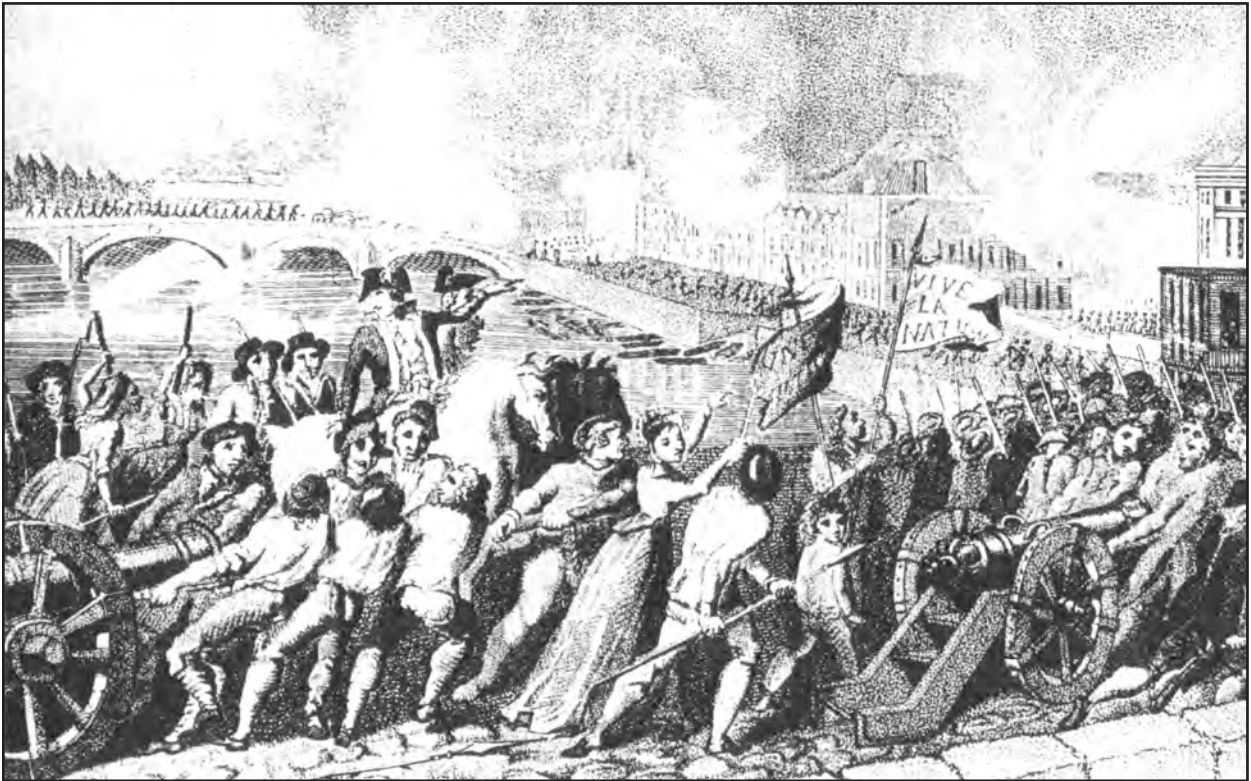
[From a letter written by a Prussian officer to his wife after the defeat of the allied forces by the French at the battle of Valmy (September 1792)]

Source D

‘At this time the Girondins exercised a very strong influence over the Assembly and the Jacobins. Amongst the leaders of this faction were Vergniaud, Gaudet and Gensonne. These deputies in a letter to the King, stated that the people’s dissatisfaction was on the point of exploding in the most terrible manner and that it would trigger off a far more widespread and violent uprising than the one of 20th June. They predicted it would take place in the next fortnight.’

[Bertrand de Molville, a member of the National Assembly, giving an account of political activity in mid-July 1792 in his *Memoirs* (1801)]

Source E



[A contemporary print showing the citizens of Paris mobilizing their forces to attack the Tuileries (10 August 1792)]

- (a) Compare Sources A and B. How do Sources A and B show contrasting views of the September Massacres? [8]
- (b) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D as evidence to an historian studying events in France during July-September 1792? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of the overthrow of the Monarchy and the First Republic, 1789-1792? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the sources.)

4. The Terror and the Thermidorians.

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

Source A

‘How can we end the civil war? By punishing traitors and conspirators, especially those deputies and administrators who are to blame: by sending patriot troops under patriot leaders to reduce the aristocrats of Lyon, Marseilles, Toulon, the Vendee, the Jura and all other districts where the banner of Royalism and rebellion has been raised: and by making a terrible example of all criminals who have outraged liberty and spilt the blood of patriots.’

[From a speech to the Convention delivered by Maximilian Robespierre (July 1793)]

Source B

‘The great weakness of the Thermidorians was that they enjoyed no political support but at most, toleration. They were squeezed between the revived aristocratic reaction and the Jacobin sans-culotte Paris poor who soon regretted the fall of Robespierre. In 1795 they devised an elaborate constitution to safeguard themselves against both.’

[Eric Hobsbawm, a leading British Marxist historian, writing in *The Age of Revolution* (1975)]

Source C

‘The Jacobins have rallied their scattered sons, but their support is tumbling every day. What is new in this crisis is that the people as a whole are firmly opposed to the Jacobins. And so the moderates who are striving to bring down the Revolutionary Government have the vast majority with them. Everywhere they talk of the Constitution of 1791.’

[From an anonymous letter written by an émigré describing the political situation in France in the summer of 1795]

Source D

‘A new terror, far more productive of crime than that from which they claimed to be freeing themselves, was now spreading like a devouring lava flood in the departments of the Midi. There was not one commune where, following Marseille’s example, daggers were not plunged into republican hearts. Everywhere a kind of rivalry emerged, a contest for a prize to outdo all the rest in massacres.’

[Fréron, a committed republican and former Representative on Mission, writing in an official account of the massacres carried out by royalist gangs during the White Terror (1795)]

Source E

[A contemporary print showing sans-culottes making saltpetre for the army (c. 1794)]

- (a) Compare Sources B and C. How do Sources B and C show contrasting views of the support for the Thermidorians? [8]
- (b) Study Sources A and D. How reliable are Sources A and D as evidence to an historian studying political violence, 1793-1795? [16]
- (c) How useful are the sources to an understanding of the Terror and the Thermidorians? [24]
(You are advised to use in your answer relevant background knowledge as well as information derived from the sources.)