



**GCE AS/A level**

1232/07

**HISTORY – HY2**

**UNIT 2**

**IN-DEPTH STUDY 7**

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION c. 1774-1795**

A.M. THURSDAY, 19 May 2011

1½ hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **one** question.

**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 2**  
**IN-DEPTH STUDY 7**  
**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, c. 1774-1795**

*Answer one question.*

1. *Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.*

**Source A**

‘Louis XVI may be seen passing each morning in his room, observing with his telescope those who arrive at Versailles. He often occupies himself in sweeping and nailing and repairing locks. He has some common sense, simple tastes, an honest heart and a sound conscience. That is his good side. On the other hand he has a tendency to indecision, he possesses a rather weak will and he is incapable of ruling effectively. He also lacks an ability to fully appreciate the significance of what is occurring around him.’

[From the private diary kept by L’ Abbé de Veri,  
a high ranking churchman who was critical of Louis XVI (1780)]

**Source B**

‘Louis XVI did not rule effectively himself, neither did he delegate his power to a single chief minister. This led to endless plotting at Versailles which in turn crippled the political life of the nation. The King was not only the head of state but also the centre of the court. But his upbringing and personality made it unlikely that he would be a strong absolute ruler.’

[Norman Hampson, an academic historian, writing in a general text book,  
*The French Revolution: A Concise History* (1975)]

**Source C**

‘You meddle in a great many matters which do not concern you and which you know nothing at all about. Why do you think it your business, my dear sister, to transfer ministers, to send one to his estates, to have a particular office given to this man or that, to talk about public affairs relating to the American War? Have you ever asked yourself by what right you interfere in the affairs of the government of the French Kingdom?’

[Joseph II, the Austrian Emperor, writing in a private letter  
to his sister Marie Antoinette (c.1785)]

**Source D**

‘Why are we assembled here? Without the slightest doubt, we want to restore to the French nation the exercise of those rights which are the inheritance of every man. Such is the objective of every political constitution. However, I am going to attack your reforms.’

[Robespierre, a prominent Jacobin, in a speech to the National Assembly in which he attacked the narrowness of its proposals for political reform (March 1791)]

**Source E**

[A contemporary royalist print showing four ordinary people attacking the symbols of the ancien régime. This was published following the abolition of the nobility by the National Assembly (June 1790)]

- (a) Study Source C. Use the source **and your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the term ‘the American War’. [4]
- (b) Study Sources A and C. Use these sources **and your own knowledge** to explain the importance of the roles of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. [8]
- (c) Study Sources D and E. How reliable are Sources D and E in explaining the reforms of the National Assembly? [16]
- (d) Study Sources A and B. How far does Source A support or contradict the interpretation of Louis XVI given in Source B? [20]
- (e) How useful are these sources to an understanding of the French Revolution to 1792? [32]

*(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the depth study, as well as information derived from the sources and the attributions).*

2. Study the sources below and answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

‘The conspiracy against the church and the hatred shown by the philosophes against God during the ancien régime were not the only legacies which they left. Voltaire was a central figure, who said, ‘Let us crush the altar and let not a single altar nor a single worshipper be left to the God of the Christians.’ It was but a small step from attacking the church to attacking the monarchy.’

[L’ Abbé Augustin Barruel, a staunch supporter of the church and the monarchy, writing in his *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism* (1799)]

**Source B**

‘We have come to a bloody catastrophe. The weakness of the government seems to allow anything, and has contributed to the triumph of the Third Estate. Recently fifty members of the nobility, at the head of which was the Duc d’Orleans, joined the Third. I would certainly have done the same since my cahier did not say anything strict about voting by head or by order. But I did not think that I could abandon my order. There is widespread popular support for the actions of the Third Estate.’

[Marquis de Ferrières, a deputy for the Second Estate to the Estates General, writing in a private letter to his sister (28 June 1789)]

**Source C**

‘Although the reforms of 1789 had the warm and almost unanimous support of the entire French nation, the events of 10th August 1792 were a second revolution. Outside of Paris, the overthrow of the monarchy was viewed with deep concern, especially at the prospect of a republic dominated by Paris and the *sans-cullottes*.’

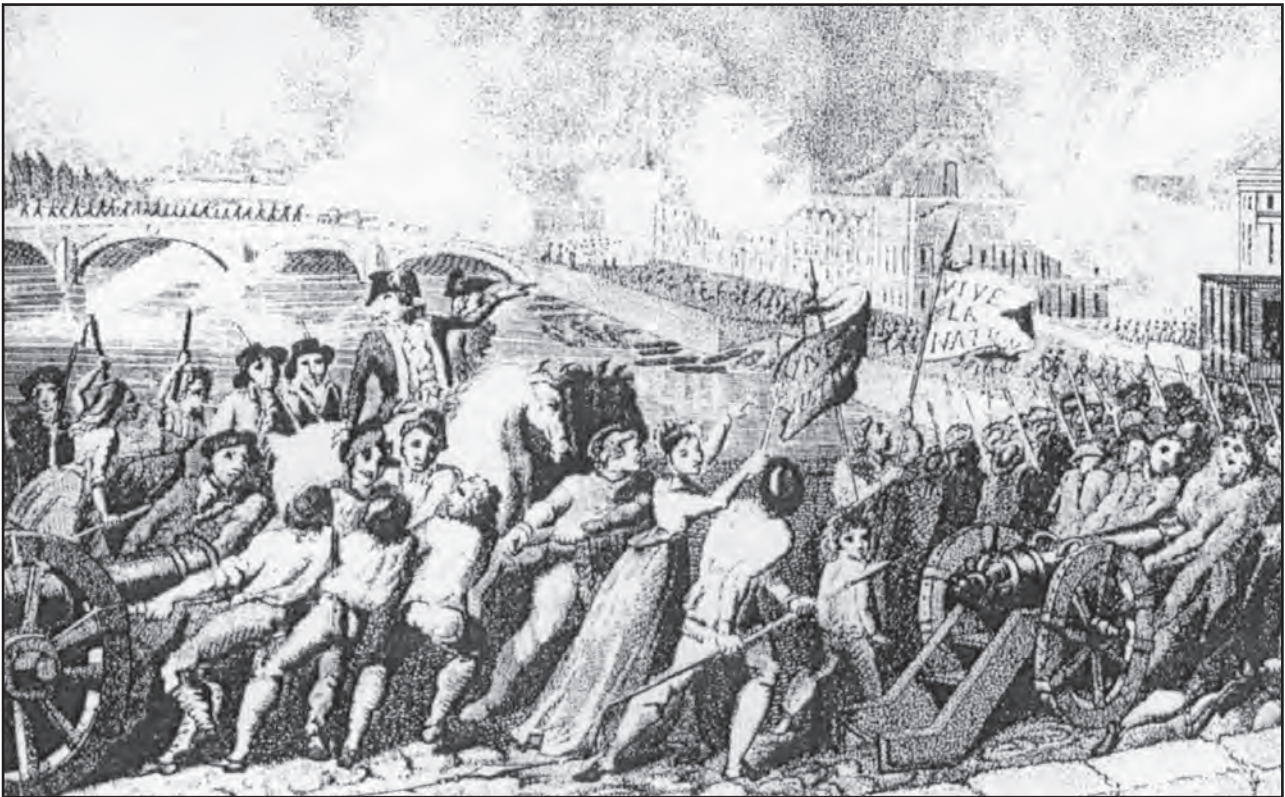
[George Lefèbvre, a leading academic and Marxist historian, writing in his book, *The French Revolution* (1957)]

**Source D**

‘The reign of the priests has passed, and the more efforts they make to shore up the tottering remains of its ecclesiastical power, the sooner they will hasten its collapse. If the clergy were less concerned with their past glory and wealth, if they did not wish to cause civil war at any possible price, they would no longer resist the lawful will of the nation.’

[From an article in *La Revolution de Paris*, a French radical newspaper and a strong supporter of anti-clericalism (July 1790)]

## Source E



[A contemporary pro-Jacobin print showing a large and enthusiastic crowd of *sans-cullottes* attacking the Tuileries to overthrow the monarchy on 10th August, 1792]

- (a) Study Source A. Use the source **and your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the term ‘the ancien régime.’ [4]
- (b) Study Sources B and C. Use these sources **and your own knowledge** to explain the importance of the events of 1789. [8]
- (c) Study Sources A and D. How reliable are Sources A and D in explaining attitudes towards the Catholic Church? [16]
- (d) Study Sources C and E. How far does Source E support or contradict the interpretation of support for the overthrow of the monarchy given in Source C? [20]
- (e) How useful are the sources to an understanding of the French Revolution up to 1792? [32]

*(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the depth study, as well as information derived from the sources and the attributions).*