



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate  
Principal Subject

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**HISTORY**

**9769/56**

Paper 5f Special Subject: The French Revolution, 1774–1794

**May/June 2012**

**2 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

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This document consists of **4** printed pages.



**Answer the following question.**

**Nominated topic: The 'crowd' in the Revolution and the role of women**

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

**A** *A print of 1789 shows the role of women in an important revolutionary event.*



Women on the way to Versailles from Paris, 4 October 1789, to protest about food shortages.

**B** *A leading political philosopher who was a Paris Deputy and secretary of the National Assembly argues for the political rights of women.*

Habit can make men take violations of natural rights for granted. Surely our legislators were violating the principle of equal rights by debarring women from citizenship and thereby depriving half the human race of the right to participate in making laws. Could there be any stronger evidence of the power of mere habit over enlightened men than the spectacle of them invoking the principle of equal rights for men who had been deprived of those rights by an absurd prejudice, and yet forgetting it for 12 million women? The rights of men stem from the fact that they are capable of acquiring moral ideas and reasoning. Since women have the same qualities, they necessarily should have the same rights. Either no member of the human race has any rights, or all should have them.

Marquis de Condorcet, *On Giving Women the Right of Citizenship*, 1790.

**C** *A leading revolutionary feminist argues for equal rights for women.*

Woman is born free and should be equal to man in her rights. The purpose of any political system is the preservation of the natural rights of woman and man; these rights are liberty, property, security, and especially resistance to oppression.

Liberty and justice consist of giving everyone what should belong to them; thus, the only limit on women having the rights that belong to them is perpetual male tyranny. This limit must be reformed by laws based on nature and reason.

The law must be the expression of the general will; all female and male citizens must contribute either personally or through their representatives to its formation; it must be the same for all: male and female citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law, must be equally admitted to all honours, positions, and public employment according to their capacity and without other distinctions besides those of their virtues and talents.

No woman is an exception; she can be accused, arrested, and detained by law. Women, like men, obey this law. Women have the right to mount the scaffold; they must equally have the right to mount the political rostrum. The tax contributions of woman and man are equal. Women share all the duties and all the painful tasks, therefore they must have the same share in the distribution of positions, employment, offices, honours and jobs.

The constitution is worth nothing if the majority of individuals, including women, have not cooperated in drafting it.

Olympe de Gouges, *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen*, 1791.

- D** *A former priest and a Jacobin member of the Paris Commune speaks in favour of excluding women from taking part in discussions. His view was accepted.*

How can women be discontented to remain part of the domestic sphere, a kingdom in which all men, legislators and rulers are at their feet? The rule of women is based on love and therefore human nature. In the name of that nature, stay as you are and do not meddle in politics. Remember that haughty wife of an evil husband, that Madame Roland,\* who thought she was equal to men and could govern the republic. Remember that woman-man, Olympe de Gouges, who tried to meddle in politics. These immoral creatures have been executed by the law. Why does any woman want to imitate them?

P. G. Anaxagore Chaumette, *Speech in a debate in the Paris Commune*, 28 November 1793.

\*Madame Roland, the wife of a Girondin leader and an active politician herself, was executed in the Terror.

- E** *This historian distinguishes between social and political gains made by women during the French Revolution.*

Did women gain anything at all from the French Revolution? Olympe de Gouges would not allow that they had benefited in any way. But she was wrong. The Revolution had given women two new social rights: the right to divorce and the right of equality of inheritance. Politically, women at the close of the Revolution were worse off than at the beginning. In one of its aims, the establishment of equality, the Revolution failed totally. Inequality between the sexes was stronger than before. Before 1789 women were admitted to the outer circle of citizenship by reason of a very limited property qualification. But the qualification was swept away with other feudal rights. Women were left with no political gains.

Winifred Stephens, *Women of the French Revolution*, 1922.

- (a)** How far do the arguments for granting equal rights to women in Document C corroborate those in Document B? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents that the French Revolution had a major impact on the status and role of women in France?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

**Answer one of the following questions.** *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 Assess the view that the King's financial problems were the major cause of the breakdown of royal authority by 1789. [30]
- 3 What best explains the failure of the Constitutional Monarchy by 1792? [30]
- 4 'Merely a bloodthirsty tyrant.' Discuss this view of Robespierre. [30]

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