



**GCE AS/A LEVEL**

2100U60-1



**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**

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **both** questions.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on answering each question.

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

## UNIT 2

## DEPTH STUDY 6

## France in Revolution c. 1774-1815

## Part 1: France: The causes and course of revolution c. 1774-1792

Answer **both** questions.

## QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

## Source A

The reign of the priests has passed and the more effort they make to shore up the tottering remains of ecclesiastical power, the sooner will they hasten its collapse. The National Assembly, in debating the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, has declared that each departement will form a single diocese. It has established the election of bishops and *curés*, and committed this election of bishops and *curés* to the same body that nominates the members of the departement and districts. If the clergy were less concerned with their past glory and wealth, if they did not wish to stir up civil war at any possible price, they would no longer resist the lawful will of the nation. We would not see the majority of the bishops of France, together with the *curés*, crying out that the Catholic religion is lost because they have been denied a display of wealth that is both insolent and absolutely opposed to the principles and spirit of the Gospel.

[From an article commenting on the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, in the radical newspaper *Les Revolutions de Paris* (July 1790)]

## Source B

It is said that we are going to settle in billets in the neighbourhood of Coblenz. You have no idea of the considerable discomfort suffered by these poor brave nobles and patriots since our departure from the city of Worms and the patience, courage and determination which they have put up with in the hope of doing something. There have been no complaints, no regrets; in truth it is a phenomenon which history will one day, I hope, record with respect. To give you an idea of the way we have been living since we've been in this country, I will just tell you that out of 1,580 nobles, half have no sheets and have to sleep in their shirts and boots and the other half have two bundles of straw: those are the beds. As many as 15 to 20 of them sleep together in a peasant bedroom, the floor of which often consists only of very damp earth. One could hardly imagine less salubrious accommodation. Their commitment to opposing Jacobin fanaticism is very great given these circumstances.

[Marquis de Vibraye, an émigré, writing a letter while in exile to a friend back in France (spring 1791)]

## Source C



[A contemporary satirical cartoon by James Gilray, giving a British reaction to the September Massacres. It shows a family of sans-culottes feasting on other humans (September 1792)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the development of the French Revolution between 1790 and 1792. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

The writers of the French Enlightenment such as Voltaire, Diderot and Rousseau, undoubtedly prepared the ground for revolution in France. In challenging, through their various books and pamphlets, institutions such as the church and privileged groups like the nobility, these writers gradually undermined the unity of the *ancien regime*. In their many works they managed to give cohesion to the discontent and aspirations of widely varying social classes which were starting to oppose the absolutist state. They were able to provide a unifying body of ideas, a common vocabulary of hope and protest, something like a common 'revolutionary psychology'. In the revolutions of our own day, this ideological preparation is often the concern of political parties: but there were no such parties in eighteenth-century France: hence the key role of these *philosophes* in bringing about the revolution.

[George Rudé, a Marxist historian and specialist in the French Revolution, in his book, *Revolutionary Europe 1783-1815* (1981)]

**Interpretation 2**

In evaluating the causes of the French Revolution, there can be no doubt that Louis XVI contributed massively. His policies were extraordinarily erratic at a time when decisive action was needed. When he became King many were anxious that Louis and Marie Antoinette were not well equipped to reign over France on account of their youth and inexperience. This anxiety was justified by an awareness of Louis' personal limitations in the evolving crisis facing France. Much has been said about the integrity and the undoubtedly good intentions of this big man of limited intelligence. He came alive when hunting or making locks, but slept through council meetings and his diary shows that he was to live through the decisive days of the revolution in a state of semi-consciousness. He appointed and dismissed ministers too readily. Moreover as his reign progressed the Queen's influence over the King was gradually increasing: public opinion accused her of not thinking French at all. She quickly became 'the Austrian.'

[Michel Vovelle, a leading French academic historian and specialist in the history of the French Revolution, in his textbook, *The fall of the French Monarchy* (1984)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the causes of the French Revolution. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that Louis XVI was mainly responsible for causing the French Revolution?

[30]

**END OF PAPER**