



GCE AS/A LEVEL – NEW

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

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017 – 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 castles which abound in our countryside are supported by large estates which swallow greedily the hard earned money of the tenants. Their owners misuse many of their ancient feudal rights of hunting, fishing and woodcutting. Within the castles lurk those proud seigneurs who so expertly detach themselves from common humanity. These seigneurs pile their own taxes onto those of the King, and all too easily oppress the impoverished and unhappy peasants. The remainder of the nobility cluster around the throne, hands endlessly grasping for pensions and offices. They demand all for themselves – titles, jobs, exclusive favours, forbidding ordinary folk promotion or reward, whatever their talents or public usefulness, and for those of their own kind who shrink from actual work, they require bishoprics, abbeys and benefices.

[Louis-Sebastien Mercier, a leading French dramatist and social commentator during the Ancien Regime, writing in his description of life in France, *Tableau de Paris* (1781)]

Source B

You meddle in a great many matters which do not concern you, and which you know nothing about and in regard to which the groups and associations who flatter you, who know how to arouse your interests or who try and get you to foster a certain kind of hatred. They try to get you to take one step after another calculated to spoil the happiness of your life and certain to bring extreme unpleasantness upon you sooner or later. Your actions will diminish the King's friendship and esteem and lose you the good opinion of the public. 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, and even use expressions by no means suited to your position? Have you asked yourself by what right you interfere in the affairs of the government of the French kingdom? What knowledge have you acquired that you dare to imagine that your advice or opinion can be of any use? You are a pleasant young woman who all day thinks of nothing but frivolity, your appearance and amusements. You act impulsively. I can only foretell great unhappiness for you. I confess that this distresses me very much.

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

Source C

It is impossible to raise more taxes, ruinous to be always borrowing and not enough to confine ourselves to measures designed to save money. With matters as they are our usual policies will not resolve the financial crisis. The only way of putting the nation's finances truly in order must consist in reforming the entire state by changing all that is unsound in our constitution. The problems include a kingdom composed of *pays d'état*, *pays d'élection*, *administrations provinciales* and *administrations mixtes*; a kingdom whose provinces are foreign one to another; where multiple internal frontiers separate and divide the subjects of the same sovereign; where certain regions are totally freed of taxes, the full weight of which is borne by other regions; where the richest class is the least taxed. Such a state is imperfect, full of corrupt practices and impossible to govern well. In effect the result is that general administration is excessively complicated, public contributions unequally spread, trade hindered by countless restrictions, agriculture crushed by overwhelming burdens, the state's finances impoverished by excessive costs of recovery and by variations in their yield. These abuses need to be destroyed at their roots in order to eliminate the origin of all obstacles to establishing a more uniform order.

[Charles-Alexandre Calonne, a leading French politician who had been Controller-General of French finance, writing in an open letter to Necker, who had taken over responsibility for finance (April 1788)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the causes of the French Revolution, 1781-1789. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

War stemmed solely from the political divisions and conflicts which were becoming more serious with every day that passed. From early 1792 the intense political rivalry within the Legislative Assembly opened up deep divisions within French government. There was no question of any threat from outside or any aggression on the part of the foreign powers. For six months, several methods had been employed in an attempt to destroy the democratic party of moderates and not one had succeeded, so this time the extreme remedy – war – was tried, for it would give the government and the King dictatorial powers and would allow them to eliminate their detested enemies and restore the old order. Also in the aftermath of the Champ de Mars massacre, the disillusionment of many previous supporters of the constitutional monarchy increased and there was a growth in republicanism. For each of these deeply divided groups war was a grand measure of the divisions in domestic politics. Each had their own agenda.

[George Michon, a specialist in the history of the French Revolution and a leading left wing thinker, writing in *An Essay on the History of the Feuillant Party* (1924)]

Interpretation 2

One of the most significant factors in explaining why France went to war in 1792 was the attitude of the moderate left to spreading their ideology. These were essentially liberal politicians, the most notable of which were those who clustered around the deputies from the mercantile Gironde department in south-west France. Under the leadership of Jacques Pierre Brissot, they were a vocal and aggressive force. For Frenchmen, as for their numerous sympathisers abroad, the liberation of France was merely the first instalment of the universal triumph of liberty; an attitude which led easily to the conviction that it was the duty of the fatherland of revolutions to liberate all peoples groaning under oppression and tyranny. Among the revolutionaries, moderate and extreme, there was a genuine exalted and generous passion to spread freedom to the absolute countries of Europe. This could be done by going to war. They had a genuine inability to separate the cause of the French nation from that of all enslaved humanity.

[E. J. Hobsbawm, an academic, Marxist historian, writing in a general history of Europe, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848* (1975)]

Historians have made different interpretations about conflict in France up to 1792. 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 France's involvement in the war of 1792 against Austria and Prussia mainly stemmed from internal divisions and conflicts? [30]

END OF PAPER