



Cambridge Pre-U

HISTORY

9769/56

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

For examination from 2022

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **6** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

The revolution of 1787–1789

Question 1

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

- A** *In the National Assembly, an aristocrat supports the abolition of feudalism. This proposal was accepted and became law the same day.*

There is no one who does not groan at the spectacle of the horrible scenes in France. These popular risings, which served the purpose of gaining liberty when guilty ministers wish to deprive us of it, have now become an obstacle to liberty. In this century of enlightenment, Reason has triumphed. In this fortunate time, when we have gathered together for the public welfare and the good of the state, freed from all selfish interests, it is necessary to prove to all the citizens that it is our hope to meet their desires. We should establish as quickly as possible equality of rights that must exist among all men, and demand the renunciation of all feudal rights.

Duc d' Aiguillon, Speech, 4 August 1789.

- B** *A radical journalist sees the reforms of 4 August as a result of popular unrest.*

On 4 August, the Vicomte de Noailles proposed the abolition of all feudal rights. The motion excited enthusiasm in the Assembly. So many acts of justice and kindness, dictated by humane feeling, were passed. Is this really so? We must not insult virtuous acts, but we must not be fooled. If it was kindness that led to these sacrifices, it took a long time to come about. It is by the light of the flames of the burning châteaux that these privileged men renounced their right to hold in chains men who have already taken their freedom by force! It is at the sight of punishment of those who have robbed and exploited the people that they generously renounced their feudal dues and the right to take money from poor wretches who have barely enough to live on. But these concessions can only affect the distant future; now it is bread that poor people really want. No one will take away the distress of the people and the ills of the state.

Jean-Paul Marat, *The Friend of the People*, 21 September 1789.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B for the reasons for the changes made on 4 August. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents. [10]

The reign of Louis XVI and the long-term causes of the French Revolution

Question 2

Study all the following documents, C, D, E and F, and answer the question which follows.

C *The Parlement de Paris protests to the King about a radical proposal for tax reform.*

Your *parlement* understood that the edict substituting universal and perpetual land tax for the *corvée*, under the guise of the apparent relief it offers to the people, could at first glance have seemed a kind act inspired by the love of humanity. But it is contrary to the sense of justice which motivates you. Order and harmony are vital. The personal responsibility of the clergy is for education, religion and charity. The nobles devote their lives to the defence of the state and advising the King. The lower class of the nation, which cannot render such distinguished service, fulfils its obligations through taxes, industry and physical labour. These institutions were not formed by chance, and time cannot change them. To abolish them the whole French constitution would need to be overturned. The nobles and the clergy cannot be subject either to the *corvée*, or to the tax that replaces it.

Remonstrance, March 1776.

D *A nobleman in the Assembly of Notables defends privilege.*

A new permanent tax should not be paid by everyone. An Assembly of Notables which gave consent to such a tax would be exceeding its powers. This needs the authority of an Estates General. It would not be fair because the noblemen fight, the magistrates judge, the ministers govern and the priests hold services, so each of them should have their just privileges. The superior orders of society would be treated badly by equality. The great families are the main support of the people of France and the monarchy. The people should be separated from them by the reservation of power and dignity to the nobility. The intention behind this tax is to create a sort of illegitimate republic within the monarchy, and my sworn loyalty to the constitution compels me to oppose this. No permanent tax should be set up without the nobles and the clergy having privileges. I agree that it is just to have a temporary tax, but a permanent tax infringes the rights of property.

The Marquess Angran d'Alleray, Speech, 1787.

E *In a discussion held prior to the meeting of the Estates General, the nobles of a province in the south-west of France give their views on privilege.*

The noblemen of Roussillon resolved on 21 January 1789 that, when the forthcoming Estates General met, they would not continue to claim any more of their privileges about taxation than ordinary citizens. They recommended that this resolution should be adopted by all the nobles and clergy throughout the kingdom. This was based on the principle that they should see themselves first as men and citizens before they were raised to their present high position in society, and that they were born equal to others.

Report in an American newspaper, February 1789.

F *A modern historian considers the nature of royal rule under Louis XVI.*

Through his natural decency, Louis XVI was a sort of liberal, like his enlightened ministers. Herein lay the fatal weakness of his rule. Absolute monarchy had to be exercised or it would weaken and wither. A king who did not resort to force, bribery, political cunning and charisma could not succeed. The severe financial problems were revealed openly to the public. Previous French kings had never allowed such a level of public debate and political freedom. Before 1788 liberal reforming zeal came mainly from the government. Was Louis XVI merely weak and indecisive as is usually said? Or did the liberal ideas of the American Revolution reinforce his own inclination to give a freer rein to French public opinion? Louis might easily have used military means to enforce his policies but the monarchy fell because Louis XVI made a positive choice not to defend the authority and power which he had inherited. In the circumstances of the 1780s his enlightened qualities were his undoing. The clergy and nobility, who ought to have defended the monarchy, failed to do so, and did not see the consequences of their actions.

J F Bosher, *The French Revolution*, 1989.

How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that selfish nobles were mainly responsible for the weakening of the old order by 1789? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in this set (C–F). [30]

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Question 2

Source F

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