



**AS HISTORY**

**UNIT 2**

**DEPTH STUDY 6**

**FRANCE IN REVOLUTION c.1774-1815**

**PART 1: FRANCE: THE CAUSES AND COURSE OF  
REVOLUTION c.1774-1792**

**SPECIMEN PAPER**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

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

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

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

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.

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## DEPTH STUDY 6

## FRANCE IN REVOLUTION c.1774-1815

## PART 1: FRANCE: THE CAUSES AND COURSE OF REVOLUTION c.1774-1792

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

## QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

## Source A



[A contemporary print showing the people of the Third Estate bearing the financial burden of taxation during the ancien regime. The caption translates as 'The people under the ancien regime'. (c.1789)]

**Source B**

The voice of the people is now and then faintly heard in the remonstrances issued by the *parlement* which continues to be driven the same spirit of opposition to the measures of the Court. In general however access to the throne is very limited. I know it has been said that the extent of the influence of the Queen's party goes no further than to the disposal of certain places and pensions without interfering with the great line of public business and particularly that of foreign affairs. But when they command the person who holds the purse of state, they necessarily have the greatest direct influence in all internal affairs and a considerable share in foreign affairs.

[Daniel Hales, a British diplomat in Paris, writing in a secret dispatch to Lord Carmarthen, the British Foreign Secretary (16 August 1787)]

**Source C**

Conditions in France were ripe for a democratic revolution when the unfortunate Louis XVI ascended the throne: the government's action favoured its explosion. The two privileged orders who still retained control of the government were ruined through their taste for luxury. The Third Estate in contrast had produced enlightened thinkers and acquired enormous wealth. The people were restrained only by their habit of servitude and the limited hope they had of breaking their chains. The government had succeeded in containing this hope, but it still flourished in the heart of the nation. For royal power to remain intact in such circumstances would have required a tyrant or a great statesman on the throne. Louis XVI was neither: he was too well intentioned not to try and remedy abuses which had shocked him, but he possessed neither the character nor the talents to control an impetuous nation which cried out for reform. His reign was a succession of feeble attempts at doing good, shows of weakness, and the clear evidence of his inadequacy as a ruler.

[Antoine Barnave, once a prominent deputy in the National Assembly but guillotined in November 1793, shortly after finishing his account of the origins of the French Revolution, *Introduction to the French Revolution* (1793)]

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. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

In the two years after its birth, the National Assembly achieved a great deal. First, the Constitution of 1791 was passed. It established a sovereign legislative assembly, guaranteed civil rights, divided the male population into “active” (or voting) and “passive” citizens, and allowed the king to continue as a constitutional monarch. Second, the Assembly established a national church. Priests were to be elected, the state would pay their salaries (the tithe was abolished), and archbishoprics were abolished, meaning bishops could no longer answer to the Pope. Third, the Constituent Assembly reorganised the administration of the country by abolishing the intendant system through the establishment of uniform *départements*. The Assembly also replaced the endless variety of local measuring systems with the metric system in order to further centralisation and unification. By the end of September 1791, the National Assembly announced that its work was done. In many ways, the Constitution of 1791 seemed to fulfill the promises of reform which had been first uttered by the men of 1789. All Frenchmen could now be proud that the following rights had been secured: equality before the law, careers open to talent, a written constitution, and parliamentary government

[Gregory Brown, a university lecturer and author, writing in a student study guide to modern European history (2014)]

**Interpretation 2**

The French Revolution had many turning points; but the oath of the clergy was, if not the greatest, unquestionably one of them. It was the National Assembly’s most serious mistake. For the first time the revolutionaries forced fellow citizens to choose: to declare themselves publicly for or against the new order. And although refusers branded themselves unfit to exercise public office in the regenerated French Nation, paradoxically their freedom to refuse was a recognition of their right to reject the Revolution’s work. In seeking to identify dissent, in a sense the revolutionaries legitimized it. That might hardly have mattered if as the deputies expected, non-jurors had amounted to only a handful. But when, months later rather than the expected few weeks later, the overall pattern of oath-taking became clear it was found that around half the clergy of France felt unable to subscribe.

[William Doyle, a British academic historian specialising in the French Revolution, writing in a specialist textbook, *The Oxford History of the French Revolution* (1989)]

Historians have made different interpretations of the reforms of the National Assembly. 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 the reforms of the National Assembly were successful? [30]