EUROPEAN HISTORY

6. The French Revolution

Form 3
Unit 6.1 France Before the Revolution

1. Introduction
Throughout the summer of 1789 millions of ordinary French people, starting in Paris and then spreading all over France, took part in a violent revolution. By the end of the year they had destroyed the old regime of King Louis XVI. In the years that followed, they went on changing their government, their society and their economy. What made ordinary men and women behave like this? Why did they want to destroy the old system of government and society? The answer to these questions can be found in the way French society and government functioned in the 18th century.

2. French society before the Revolution
French society since the middle ages had been divided in three estates: the First Estate (the Clergy), the Second Estate (the Nobility) and the Third Estate (the middle class, the working class and the peasants). By 1789, however, the nobility and the clergy were less important they had been in the middle ages. French people therefore thought the system of estates was outdated and unfair. Why? The division of the people in estates was unequal in numbers and wealth. While most of the nobles and the upper clergy lived in luxury, most people in towns and villages lived miserable lives.

‘An entire family lives in a single room, in which the four walls are bare, the beds have no covers, and the kitchen things are pilled up with the chamber pots. All the furniture together is not worth 20 crowns. Every three months the inhabitants are thrown out for owing back rent and must find another hole to live in. Thus, they wander, taking their miserable possessions from refuge to refuge.’

3. The system of taxation
Although most people were poor they still had to pay many taxes. And there were two types of taxes: direct taxes paid to the government (e.g. poll tax) and indirect taxes paid when buying certain goods (e.g. salt and wine). In addition to these taxes, the peasants had to pay feudal dues (taxes) to their noble landlords. And lastly, everyone in the parish had to give a tithe (a tenth of the income or earnings) to the local Church. For most French people, though knowing that it was unequal and unfair, they accepted this as the only way of life possible.

4. The influence of the enlightenment
In the 18th century a handful of educated people started to question this way of life and put forward ideas how it should be reformed. These were the philosophes, a group of writers, journalists and scientists who based their conclusions on reason and scientific proof.

5. The government of France by the King
France was governed since 1774 by Louis XVI as an absolute monarch. This means that he did not have to share his power with anyone else. Louis could do whatever he chose whenever he pleased. He ruled over France from the magnificent Palace of Versailles. Hundreds of nobles lived there and helped in the government. The king became unpopular because many people thought that he had too much power. One thing they disliked most was the lettres de cachet (sealed letters) – a royal warrant ordering the imprisonment, exile or death of a person at the king’s pleasure and without a fair trial. During the reign of Louis XVI, around 14,000 sealed letters were issued, most of them by the King’s ministers and advisers.
6. **Queen Marie Antoinette**
Marie Antoinette, was an Austrian Habsburg princess. At first he was popular with the people, but by 1789 she had become one of the most hated persons all over France. People hated her for spending large sums of money on clothes, jewellery and gambling and for being openly unfaithful to Louis.

7. **The royal debt**
The French government had been in debt for nearly a hundred years. This was because it spent more than it received in taxes. In 1786 the Finance Minister told the king that France was heading for **bankruptcy**. Something had to be done quickly to avoid this. The king had four options: (1) raise more taxes, (2) reduce spending, (3) borrow more money or (4) call the Estates General to change the way taxes were collected.

8. **The food crisis**
Money was not the only problem for the government. In the countryside there was also mass hunger. This crisis was caused by **freaky weather** in 1788: first hailstorms followed by droughts. As a result, the harvest of 1788 was fewer than before. In 1789 the winter was colder, rivers froze, roads blocked, windmills stopped grinding flour. In spring floods ruined most of the farmlands. All this freaky weather resulted in great **scarcities of food** and a sharp rise in the price of bread. People spent most of their earnings on bread and stopped buying other things such as cheese, meat, clothes. Factories stopped working and more people lost their jobs. Unemployment and hunger made people go on strike and riot in many parts of the country and in the larger towns. These protests became known as **food riots**, because starving people attacked shops and bakeries in search of bread.

9. **The list of complaints (cahiers)**
While hunger spread across France, elections were taking place to choose the members of the Estates General. Lists of complaints totalling 60,000 were drawn up from all over France. They showed that millions of French people wanted major changes. Drawing up lists of complaints made people excited for change. So when the **Estates General** met, millions of people had great expectations of it. Many thought that the king was interested in their problems and was going to take action to solve them. But they would soon realize that they were mistaken. Why?

10. **The meeting of the Estates General, 5th May 1789**
The first meeting of the Estates General was opened by the king at the Palace at Versailles. The king then ordered the estates to split and carry on the meeting in separate halls. The Third Estate disagreed with this. If they met separately, they would always be outvoted 2 to 1 (the Clergy and the Nobility voting against the Third Estate). So they refused to discuss anything as a separate group. They insisted that they would discuss things if the nobles and the clergy joined them in a single ‘**National Assembly**’. This was an act of defiance to the king’s authority. The King then decided to use the palace guards to close the gates and lockout the members of the Third Estate outside while he held a meeting with the nobles and the clergy.

11. **The Tennis Court Oath, 19th June 1789**
This lockout angered and excited the deputies of the Third Estate. They were afraid that the king was about to use force to break their assembly. Since it was raining, they took shelter in a tennis court close-by. Inside the court they took an oath to carry on meeting until they gave France a fairer system of government (or **constitutions**).

Louis could have ordered the soldiers to make them leave. But faced with such determination, he gave in to them. He ordered the nobles and the clergy to join the Third Estate and form one single **National Assembly** – France’s first elected parliament. Cheering crowds lit fireworks when they heard the news. To many people these events seemed like a revolution. An Englishman who witnessed the events wrote: ‘the whole business now seems over and the revolution complete.’ But the revolution was far from complete. It had just begun!
Unit 6.2  Illustrated Sources about France Before the Revolution

1. [Image of a historical scene]
2. [Image of a cartoon]
3. [Image of a portrait]
4. [Image of a cartoon]
5. [Image of a cartoon]
6. [Image of a cartoon]
7. [Image of a historical scene]
8. [Image of a painting]
9. [Image of a historical scene]

A contemporary cartoon, showing the Third Estate welcoming the nobles and the clergy to the ranks of the National Assembly, June 20, 1789.
The social classes that made up the Three Estates in France before 1789

**First Estate**
About 130,000 people
The clergy was made up of:
Archbishops, bishops, cannons and priors, nuns, monks, parish priests
Main privileges
Had their own law courts
Did not pay certain taxes

**Second Estate**
About 250,000 people
The nobility was made up of:
The royal family, the nobles of the sword (princes of the blood, dukes, marquises, counts, viscounts, barons, knights) and the nobles of the robe
Main privileges
The right to carry a sword
Special treatment in law courts
Did not pay certain taxes
Did not do military service

**Third Estate**
About 27 million people
The common people included:
Lawyers, doctors, businessmen, merchants, soldiers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, labourers, peasants
Main privileges
None

Source 3. The most common feudal rights and dues

**Rights**
The right of the oven to bake bread
The right of the mill to grind flour
The right of the press to make wine
The right of the hunt in planted fields

**Dues**
*Corvée* (do unpaid work on their lord’s fields)
*Cens* (pay rent for their fields)
*Camps* (give portion of their crops to the lord)

Source 4. The most common types of taxes paid by the French before 1789

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Taxes</th>
<th>Indirect Taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Taille</em></td>
<td>Tax on land or income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Capitation</em></td>
<td>Paid by every member of the family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vingtieme</em></td>
<td>5% of the year’s income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corvee</em></td>
<td>Unpaid work on royal roads</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source 5. The Finances of the French Monarchy in 1788

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending: 633,100,000 livres</th>
<th>Income: 471,600,000 livres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The royal family</td>
<td>42,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign affairs</td>
<td>14,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The army and the navy</td>
<td>158,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public works</td>
<td>14,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, pensions and charity</td>
<td>66,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>75,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payments on debt</td>
<td>261,100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unit 6.1 France before the Revolution

1. Write TRUE or FALSE to these statements about France before the Revolution. (6)
   
   1.1 The French Revolution started in the summer of 1789.  
   1.2 Before 1789 all the French people had to pay taxes.  
   1.3 The **philosophes** wanted to reform French society.  
   1.4 The King used the **letter de cachet** to reform the laws of France.  
   1.5 The Estates General was replaced by the National Assembly.  
   1.6 Marie Antoinette was unpopular because she was Protestant.  

2. Match column A with column B. (6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Third Estate</td>
<td>France’s government before 1789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 First Estate</td>
<td>the common people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Lettre de cachet</td>
<td>the nobles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Cahiers</td>
<td>the clergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Second Estate</td>
<td>list of complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Old Regime</td>
<td>sealed letters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the written primary sources in Unit 6.3 to help you answer.

3. Read source 1. Why do you think many French people in Paris were unhappy with the way France was governed? (1)

4. Read source 2. Why French society was unfairly divided before 1789? (1)

5. (a) Who paid feudal rights and feudal dues in France before 1789? (1)
    (b) To whom were these rights and dues paid? (1)

   (a) Who paid most of these taxes? (1)
   (b) Who was exempt from paying most of them? (2)

6. Read source 5. How do we know from the table that the financial problem of the French monarchy started many years before 1788? (1)

(Total 20 marks)
Unit 6.4 The Course of the French Revolution

1. The Great Fear
With the setting up of the National Assembly, King Louis lost control of the Estates General. Riots in Paris meant that he could lose control of the capital city too. So he was advised to bring 20,000 royal troops around Paris to keep order there. But many people in Paris became afraid that he was about to break up the National Assembly. Frightened crowds started looking for weapons to defend themselves against the king’s troops. Rumour went round that there were tonnes of gunpowder and weapons in the Bastille, an old fortress in Paris.

2. The Storming of the Bastille, 14th July 1789
Parisians hated the Bastille. They had heard stories about its dark dungeons, torture chambers and masked prisoners chained to the walls for life. That fortress was the symbol of all they hated about the king’s power. They broke into the courtyard and threatened to blow down the gates with cannons. The governor decided to give in and surrender. When he lowered the drawbridge the crowd stormed inside, smashing anything and killing its garrison. By evening they had control of the Bastille.

Towns and villages all over France followed the example of Paris. Rioting crowds attacked town halls and set up their own communes (local councils) and National Guard units. By late July, the whole country was gripped by a ‘Great Fear’ of violent gangs.

3. The Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen, August 1789
The deputies of the National Assembly were scared by the violence of the peasants. They took drastic measures to end it. Feudal rights (see table in source 3) were abolished, thus ending feudalism in France. The National Assembly made another important change: it issued the Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen. This stated that all men were free and equal in rights. It said that people have the right to speak and write freely. It changed the laws of arrest and imprisonment and banned torture and slavery. It said that power to make laws in France belonged to the people and not just the king. In October, when the King refused to approve the changes made by the Assembly, the women of Paris armed with swords, sticks, rifles and cannons marched to Versailles and forced the King to come to live in Paris and approve the new laws. This event became known as the Women’s March to Versailles.

4. The Reform of the Church
On one issue, the French people became bitterly divided. Many argued that the Church had too much power, land and money. When the National Assembly passed a law reducing the power of the Church (the Civil Constitution of the Clergy), many Catholics protested. The law ordered all the clergy to take an oath of loyalty to the nation and the law. Over half the clergy refused to take the oath. The Pope supported them by condemning the new law. From then on, the clergy remained divided between those who took the oath and supported the revolution, and those who refused the oath and opposed the revolution.

5. The King tries to escape
In June 1791 the King decided to leave France with the royal family. The plan was to get help from outside France, crush the revolution and take back the power he had lost. Louis, the queen and their children, dressed up as a merchant family, travelled in a carriage towards the Belgian frontier, some 250 km east of Paris. They were only 50 km from the frontier when they were recognized in the little town of Varennes. They were arrested and sent back to Paris amidst the shouting and insults of the angry crowds.

6. France declares war on Austria and Prussia
Emperor Leopold, Marie Antoinette’s brother, issued a statement promising to help them regain their liberty and power. He and the King of Prussia, called on all European kings to take action to help Louis. In April 1792 the National Assembly declared war on Austria. French armies attack Belgium but were defeated by the Austrians. The Assembly then declared that ‘France is in Danger’ and appealed to all citizens to volunteer for the army. It also ordered weapons to be given to all citizens so that they could defend themselves against their foreign enemies. But now that they had weapons, the people of Paris could do whatever they wanted. Above all, they wanted to get rid of the king and set up a republic with more power in the hands of the common people.
7. The overthrow of the monarchy and the declaration of the republic
On 10th August 1792, 20,000 armed men and women marched to the Tuileries, the King’s palace in Paris. The royal family escaped and take shelter in the National Assembly. Using knives, pikes and axes they slaughtered 600 the Swiss guards of the palace. Louis was then suspended from office and imprisoned with his family. A new assembly was set up, called Convention which removed Louis from King and declared France a Republic. Louis was put on trial for high treason, found guilty and beheaded by the guillotine in January 1793.

8. The power of the sans culottes – the September Massacres of 1792
The people who overthrew the king called themselves sans culottes. They were the working people of Paris (craftsmen, clerks, porters, labourers etc.). They hated nobles and hunted them down. They claimed the right to carry weapons and to use them against their opponents. In September 1792, they broke into the prisons of Paris and murdered 1,400 prisoners whom they suspected of supporting the king.

9. The war spreads
The execution of the king shocked millions of people all over Europe. A coalition, or alliance, was formed to destroy the new French Republic. Far from scaring the French, this made them more warlike than before. They wanted to fight all these ‘tyrants’ (the other absolute monarchs of Europe) and spread the revolution outside France. Thus the Republic declared war on Britain, Holland and Spain. France was now at war with most of Europe.

10. The Jacobins take over power (June 1793)
In Paris, the war led to a conflict between two groups of politicians in the Convention: the Girondins had the most important posts in the government, while the Jacobins were supported by the sans culottes. The Jacobins blamed the Girondins for the defeats in the war and for allowing food prices to rise. In June 1793 an angry crowd of sans culottes broke into the Convention and expelled the leading Girondins. Power then was taken over by the Jacobins.

11. The Reign of Terror (from September 1793 to July 1794)
The Convention then set up an emergency group called the Committee of Public Safety. Its members had the power to do anything they thought necessary to save the revolution. For the next twelve months it imposed harsh punishments on opponents. The Reign of Terror began with a Law of Suspects in September 1793. Citizens in every town had to draw up lists of people they suspected of opposing the government. Many suspects were sent to Paris for trial by the Revolutionary Tribunal. Its judges could impose sentences of imprisonment, deportation or death. Around half the sentences (17,000) were beheaded by the guillotine. One of the first to die was Marie Antoinette, in October 1793 for treason. As part of the campaign against Christianity, the Convention introduced a new calendar. Years were no longer counted from the birth of Christ but from September 1792 which became Year I of the Republic. The Committee, headed by Maximilien Robespierre became a kind of a twelve-men dictatorship.

12. The end of the Terror, 28 July 1794
By the summer of 1794 the Committee became very unpopular because it had become too powerful. Even the sans culottes, its strongest supporters, were unhappy because their wages were held down by the Maximum Law, while prices were still rising. On 27 July the Convention decided to get rid of Robespierre and his team. With Robespierre dead, the Convention reduced the power of the Committee, freed hundreds of prisoners, abolished the Maximum Law and got rid of the Revolutionary Tribunal. Government by terror thus came to an end.
Unit 6.5 Illustrated Sources on the Course of the Revolution

1. Personage of the Revolution
2. Lynching of Louis XVI
3. Execution of Louis XVI
4. Siege of the Bastille
5. Storming of the Bastille
6. Women of the Revolution
7. Execution of Marie Antoinette
8. Women's March on Versailles
9. A Marat Ode
10. Robespierre and the Jacobins
11. Convening of the Estates-General
**Unit 6.6 Written Sources on the Course of the Revolution**

**Source 1. Part of a letter by King Louis to King Frederick William II of Prussia, Dec. 1791.**
‘I have written to the Emperor of Austria, Empress of Russia, and the Kings of Spain and Sweden, suggesting the idea of a meeting of all the principal powers of Europe, backed up by armed force. This could control the revolutionaries here, and establish a better state of affairs and prevent the evil which torments us from overcoming the other states of Europe.’

**Source 2. A Republican petition, July 1791**
‘Louis XVI, after having sworn to defend the constitution, has deserted the post entrusted to him. Considering it would be against the interest of the outraged nation to entrust the country to a traitor and a fugitive, we demand that Louis give up the throne.’

**Source 3. Louis XVI’s execution based on Edgeworth’s eye-witness account.**
‘As soon as the King had got out of the coach, three of the executioners surrounded him and tried to remove his outer garments. He pushed them away and took off his coat, his collar and his skirt and made himself ready with his own hands…When the King reached the top of the steps he crossed the scaffold with a firm step, and silenced the… drummers with a single glance. He pronounced these unforgettable words: ‘I die innocent of all the crimes with which I am charged. I forgive those that are guilty of my death, and I pray God that the blood you are about to shed may never be required of France.’ The King’s last words were drowned out by the drummers who had been hastily ordered to start drumming again. The executioner quickly strapped the King to a plank and pushed him under the ‘widow’s window’. The King uttered a frightful cry as the blade fell. The executioners soon grabbed the royal head out of the basket and held it up to the crowd. Many people ran to the scaffold to dip their handkerchief in the royal blood as a souvenir. One of them put a drop of blood to his lips, remarking to a companion that it tasted ‘shockingly bitter’.

**Source 4. From the Law of Suspects**
[people who] … by their behaviour, their contacts, their words or their writings, showed themselves to be … enemies of Liberty.’

**Source 5 From an eye-witness account of the execution of Robespierre.**
‘On the 10th Thermidor at four in the afternoon, the sinister procession issued from the courtyard of the Palais de Justice….The long-suppressed hatred against these criminals now exploded …everyone applauded madly and seemed to be sorry he could not do more. Most of the watchers fixed their gaze on the cart in which the two Robespierres, Couthon and Hanriot were riding. These miserable creatures were all mutilated and covered with blood and looked like a group of brigands …. It would be difficult to describe the appearance of Robespierre. His face was wrapped in a bandage of dirty blood-stained linen and, from what one could see of his features, was horribly disfigured….He kept his eyes down and almost closed, but whether that was due to the pain caused by his wounds or to the consciousness of his misdeeds one cannot say. Just before arriving at the place of execution, he was shaken out of his lethargy by a woman, who forced her way through the crowds and rushed up to the cart conveying this cannibal. She grasped the railing of the cart and with the other hand threatened him ….‘Go now, evil-doer, go down into your grave loaded with the curses of the wives and mother of France.’”

**Source 6. Cases of executions during the Terror**
‘Jean Baptiste Henry aged 18, convicted of having sawed down a tree of liberty.’ (Paris Tribunal)
Francois Bertrand aged 37 … convicted of having provided sour wine for the army, condemned to death and executed the same day.’ (Paris Tribunal)
‘A woman was charged with the crime of having wept at the execution of her husband. She was condemned to sit several hours under the suspended blade which shed upon her drop by drop the blood of her husband before she was executed.’ (Bordeux Tribunal)
### Unit 6.7 The Verdict on the French Revolution

**Source 7.** Rebels in a village called Doulon complain when they are forced to join the army, early 1793.
‘They have killed our king; chased away our priests; sold the goods of our church; eaten everything we have, and now they want to take our bodies … no, they shall not have them.’

**Source 8.** From a speech by Antoine Barnave, a moderate revolutionary leader from a rich family, July 1791
‘The Revolution has destroyed all that it had set out to destroy and has brought us to a point where it is necessary to halt.’

**Source 9.** A Peasants’ complaint, 1791
‘We thought that after the ending of feudalism we would not only be free people but able to do what we wanted with our land. Two years’ experience has shown us that we are still slaves.’

**Source 10.** Part of a letter by Charlotte Corday to her father a day before her trial.
‘I have avenged many innocent victims and I have prevented many other disasters … Adieu my dear father, I beg you to forget me or rather to rejoice in my fate. The cause is good.’

**Source 11.** Part of a poem put on Marat’s door.
‘People, Marat is dead … Weep, but remember that he must be avenged.’

### Unit 6.8 The Verdict on Robespierre

**Source 12.** From the London Times, 28 July 1794
‘Robespierre was bred a butcher. This may account for the calm with which he has brought such numbers to the block. No man has better talents to be the leader of the mob than this.’

**Source 13.** Written by Bertrand Barere in 1832 who sat on the Committee of Public Safety with Robespierre but helped overthrow him.
‘He was a man without personal ambition. His misfortune was to have aimed at dictatorship which he believed was the only way to stop the spread of evil.’

**Source 14.** Written by Jerome Petion, radical mayor of Paris from 1791, committed suicide in 1794 rather than face the guillotine.
‘Robespierre is extremely touchy and suspicious. He sees plots and treason everywhere. He is intolerant of opposition. He never admits mistakes.’

**Source 15.** By George Rudé, a recent French historian and biographer of Robespierre.
‘The Revolution’s outstanding leader, at every stage of its most creative years, and the first champion of democracy and the people’s rights. This is his main claim to greatness.’
### 6.4 The Course of the French Revolution

#### 1. Phase 1 of the Revolution. Use Unit 6.4 to help you put these events in the correct chronological order. (6)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>The Civil Constitution of the Clergy reforms the Church in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>The royal family tries to escape to Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>The storming of the Bastille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>The French people are hit by a ‘great fear’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>The French Government declared war against Austria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. Phase 2 of the Revolution. Use Unit 6.4 to help you put these events in the correct chronological order. (6)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>The overthrow of Robespierre end the Reign of Terror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>The Jacobins take over power in the Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>The September Massacres by the <em>sans culottes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>France is declared a republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>The war spreads to most of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>The Jacobins set up the Reign of Terror</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the written sources in Unit 6.6 to help you answer.

3. What is the King suggesting in source 1? ____________________________________________ (1)

4. What are the petitioners demanding in source 2? ____________________________________________ (1)

5. What can you conclude from source 3 about the character of the King? ________________________________ (2)

6. Read source 4. How did this law affect the life of the French people? ________________________________ (1)

7. What opinion does the author of source 5 has about Robespierre? State why? ________________________________ (2)

8. Read source 6. Give a reason why the Terror became unpopular with many French people? ________________________________ (1)

(Total 20 marks)
6.1 & 6.4 - The Course of the French Revolution 1789-1794

Read Units 6.1 and 6.4 to help you fill in the missing words.

1. The Estates ____________ met on 5th May and it was composed of members from the nobility, the ____________ and the ____________ (the common people).

2. The Third Estate defied the King by declaring itself the National ____________.

3. With the Tennis Court ____________ members of the new Assembly promised to give France a new constitution (or government).

4. On 14th July 1789 the people of Paris attacked the ____________ in search of arms to defend the National Assembly.

5. One of the important reforms of the new Assembly was the Declaration of ____________ of Man inspired by the American Constitution and by the writings of Jacques ____________.

6. In Oct. 1789, the Women’s ____________ aimed to bring the King to reside in Paris.

7. The ____________ (1790) divided most Frenchmen between those supporting the ____________ and those remaining loyal to the Church.

8. In June 1791 the King was caught while trying to escape to ____________ and he was suspended by the National Assembly.

9. In April 1792 the National Assembly declared ____________ on Austria and Prussia because these were planning to invade France and restore Louis as king.

10. The ____________ Party, whose leaders were Danton, Robespierre and Marat had the support of the sans-culottes (the common people of Paris).

11. During the ____________ the Jacobin leaders eliminated each other: Danton and Herbert were guillotined. Joachim Marat had been stabbed to death by a woman in 1793.

12. The ____________ of Public Safety and the Revolutionary Tribunal became the two instruments of the Reign of Terror under the leadership of Maximilian Robespierre.

13. Robespierre’s was arrested and executed in July 1794. Thereafter the Convention (i.e. the French Government) stopped the ____________, abolished the Paris Commune and closed down the ____________ Club.
6.9 - SEC Written Source Question on the French Revolution

Read carefully the following source and then answer all the questions.

'On the 10th Thermidor at four in the afternoon, the sinister procession issued from the courtyard of the Palais de Justice...The long suppressed hatred against these criminals now exploded with redoubled force...everyone applauded madly and seemed to be sorry he could not be more. Most of the watchers fixed their gaze on the cart in which the two Robespierres, Couthon and Hanriot were riding. These miserable creatures were all mutilated and covered with blood and looked like a group of brigands...

It would be difficult to describe the appearance of Robespierre. His face was wrapped in a bandage of dirty blood-stained linen and, from what one could see of his features, was horribly disfigured...He kept his eyes down and almost closed, but whether that was due to the pain caused by his wounds or to the consciousness of his misdeeds one cannot say. Just before arriving at the place of execution, he was taken out of his lethargy by a woman, who forced her way through the crowds and rushed up the cart conveying this cannibal.

She grasped the railing of the cart and with the other hand threatened him..."Go now, evil-doer, go down into your grave loaded with the curses of the wives and mothers of France."

Source: Part of an eye-witness account of the execution of Robespierre.

1.1 In which city did Robespierre’s execution take place? __________________________ (1)

1.2 What was the 10th Thermidor mentioned in line 1? __________________________ (1)

1.3 Robespierre had governed France mainly through a particular committee. Underline the correct answer: (Paris Commune, Revolutionary Committee, Committee of Public Safety) (1)

1.4.1 Robespierre was one of the leaders of the (Girondin, Republican, Jacobin, Constitutional) Party. (1)

1.4.2 Give two changes which Robespierre’s Party wanted to bring in France.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________ (2)

1.5.1 Robespierre’s dictatorship is known in French history as the Reign of __________________________ (1)

1.5.2 Why was it called so? __________________________ (2)

1.5.3 Why did Robespierre govern France in this way? __________________________ (2)

1.6 Do you think the person witnessing Robespierre’s execution biased in his report? How?

________________________________________________________________________ (1,2)

1.7 Do you think that the overthrow of Robespierre brought a change for the better in the course of the French Revolution? State why?

________________________________________________________________________ (1,2)

1.8 This extract is said to be a primary source. Why?

________________________________________________________________________ (1)

1.9 Give a reason why the woman mentioned in eye-witness account passed such a remark against Robespierre.

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

(Total Marks 20)
6.10 - The French Revolution 1789-1794

Read carefully the following essay titles and answer any ONE in about 200 to 300 words.

PAPER 2A

On the French Revolution

1. (a) Why was there foreign opposition to the Revolution in France? (5)
   (b) Which factions in France were in favour of war? (5)
   (c) What changes did the progress of the war bring to the Revolution in France? (5)
   (d) How did France fare in her wars against foreign powers up to 1799? (5) (SEC 1995)

2. Discuss how far the French Revolution was the result of the bankruptcy of the State. (SEC 2010)

3. Account for the various causes which led to the outbreak of the Revolution in France in 1789. (Annual Paper 2009)

PAPER 2B

On the French Revolution

1. Show the importance of these events which led to the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789:
   (a) the ideas of the *philosophes*; (5)
   (b) the financial problems of the Government of Louis XVI; (5)
   (c) the general discontent prevalent among the French; (5)
   (d) the privileges of the nobility and the higher clergy. (5) (SEC 1998)

2. (a) What was the French Revolution? (2)
   (b) Name the King and Queen of France at the beginning of the Revolution. (2)
   (c) Account for their unpopularity and eventual downfall. (8)
   (d) Account for the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution. (8) (SEC 2010)

3. Write about the causes of the French Revolution under the following titles:
   (a) The absolute rule of the King (4)
   (b) The very privileged position of the French nobles and clergy at the expense of the peasants (4)
   (c) The influence of the philosophers on the revolution (4)
   (d) The bankruptcy of the French crown (4)
   (e) The failed harvest and related problems (4) (SEC 2012)