EUROPEAN HISTORY

7. The Napoleonic Era

Form 3

Europe (1812): Peak of French Empire

Napoleonic Europe 1800-1815
After the **Reign of Terror** (1793-94), the French formed a new government called the **Directory** which lasted from 1795 to 1799. It was made up of five **Directors** backed by two assemblies – The **Council of Five Hundred** and the **Council of Elders**. But these did not govern well. Soon prices went up, money lost its value, many people starved and there was widespread corruption. In 1799 a young army general, **Napoleon Bonaparte**, forced them out of office and, backed by the army, took over the government and ruled like a dictator.

**1. Napoleon the General**

**2. Fouquet, Minister of Police supported Napoleon’s coup.**

**3. The Coup of Brunnere (9 November 1799)**

| Early Background | Napoleon was born in Corsica in 1769 from an Italian middle class family of eight children. At the age of 9 (1778) he was sent to a French military boarding school. At the age of 16 (1785) he was made a lieutenant in the French royal army. During the Revolution he gained rapid promotion: at the age of 25 (1794) he was already an artillery officer. Finally at the age of 26 (1795) he was appointed army general. |
| The Italian Campaign 1796-1797 | The **Directory** continued the war against France’s foreign enemies. French armies had conquered Belgium and Holland. General Napoleon was made in charge of the French army in Italy where led his armies in a series of victories over the Austrians. By 1797 he became France’s most famous general. |
| The Egyptian Campaign 1798-1799 | The **Directors** then made him commander of the ‘Army in the East’. His orders were to attack Britain’s trade in the Middle East. On his way to Egypt with his fleet he took control of Malta from the Knights of St John. Napoleon defeated the Egyptians at the **Battle of the Nile** but then lost the fleet against **Horatio Nelson** at the **Battle of Aboukir**. The French army found itself stranded in Egypt. |
| The War of the 2nd Coalition 1799-1801 | Back in Europe, France’s enemies joined together to force the French out of Belgium and Italy. There were revolts in France against the Directors and the French government was nearly bankrupt. Napoleon left his army in Egypt and travelled in disguise to France. His intention was to save his country from defeat. |
| The Coup d’État 9 Nov, 1799 | Two of the Directors plotted with Napoleon to get rid of the other Directors and set up a stronger government with the support of the army. Napoleon entered the **Council Hall** with some of army officers and forced the members to change the constitution. Napoleon was made supreme commander of the army. Soldiers then forced the other three Directors to resign. |
### Unit 7.2 Napoleon the Reformer (1799 to 1804)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Consulate, 1799-1804</th>
<th>France was governed by three Consuls, but only the First Consul (Napoleon) had the power to take decisions. The other two Directors were only to advise him. New councils were created: the Council of State, the Senate and the Legislative Body. In the provinces, officials called Prefects where chosen by Napoleon to put his decrees into effect. Napoleon put his new government to a plebiscite (referendum). He received 3 million votes in favour and only 1,500 votes against, even though 6 million did not bother to vote. Napoleon then said that the people supported him.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Concordat (or Agreement) with the Catholic Church, 1801</td>
<td>Then Napoleon dealt with an urgent problem. Since the Terror, churches had been closed down. Millions of French Catholics hated this. Napoleon wanted to end the religious problem. He dropped the revolutionary calendar and made Sunday a holiday again. He signed an agreement with Pope Pius VII to allow Catholics to worship freely again. The Pope allowed Napoleon to appoint all the bishops and priests to take an oath of loyalty to Napoleon. Priests came out of hiding and churches were re-opened. The agreement made Napoleon more popular with the people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Code of Laws</td>
<td>In 1802 Napoleon started reforming the way France was governed. His lawyers grouped French laws in seven volumes (the Code Napoleon). The code simplified the laws that existed in France for centuries and added the laws made by the Revolution and by Napoleon himself (law that had to do with individual rights, freedom of belief, career open to talent and equality before the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reforms</td>
<td>Napoleon set up chambers of commerce, created the Bank of France, great schemes of public works (canals, roads, bridges, seaports and the famous Louvre Museum and the Arch de Triomphe). He created a new kind of secondary school the lycée (technical schools) with more emphasis on the teaching of science, mathematics and technology. He personally chose prefects in the Departements to have control over what was going on in the provinces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Napoleon crowned Emperor as Napoleon I</td>
<td>In December 1804 Napoleon increased his power further by making himself Emperor of the French. Voters again showed their support with a huge majority in favour. Now he brought back some of the things that were removed during the Republic: a coronation ceremony by the Pope, noble titles for his family and supporters. Many thought that the Revolution was over and that France had become a hereditary monarchy again – this time under a Bonaparte Emperor instead of under a Bourbon King.</td>
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</table>
Napoleon’s victory at the Battle of Austerlitz (1805) was followed by the occupation of Vienna. His victory at the Battle of Jena (1806) was followed by the occupation of Berlin. The Berlin Decrees of 1806 replaced the Holy Roman Empire with the German Confederation of the Rhine with himself as its head. He reduced the German states from 300 to 30. From Berlin he proclaimed the Continental System (or Blockade) which was intended to boycott British commerce in Europe. In 1807 he defeated the Russians and concluded the Treaty of Tilsit with Czar Alexander I. Russia then joined the Continental System against Britain. In 1810 Napoleon reached the peak of his power. He added Tuscany, Parma, the Papal States, the Dalmatian coast, Holland and the Rhineland to the French Empire. Napoleon’s Empire and influence included most of Western Europe. In the lands they took, the French made great changes. The lands that were conquered had to provide Napoleon with soldiers and money for his armies. Napoleon could not rule all these lands himself. He therefore shared it out with his family. He made his brothers Kings of Holland, Westphalia and Spain. Other relatives were made Viceroy of Italy and King of Naples. His sisters were given smaller states in Italy to rule. The Bonapartes made many changes to the states they ruled. They reformed outdated laws, got rid of feudal rights, took away lands from the Church and modernized the way their states were governed. In this way, French institutions, ideas and fashion spread to other parts of Europe.

Every state under the French had to provide soldiers and money for Napoleon’s armies. Thousands of young man lost their lives during the Napoleonic Wars (1800-1815). Napoleon paid for his wars by taxing people more and more. His armies took the food they needed form the villages and farms they passed. Many people came to hate French rule. They waited for the right moment to turn against their foreign masters.
# Unit 7.4 Napoleon’s Problems (1808-1812)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Napoleon’s troubles in Europe</th>
<th>2. The Spanish Revolt by Goya</th>
<th>3. Napoleon’s retreat from Russia</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**The failed invasion of Britain, 1803-1805**

Britain was the only power which Napoleon failed to defeat. In 1803 he planned the invasion of Britain by crossing the Channel from Calais. But Admiral Nelson defeated the French fleet at the **Battle of Trafalgar (1805)** off the coast of Spain. Without a strong fleet, Napoleon had to postpone the planned invasion of Britain. In the meantime, Napoleon turned his attention against the Austrian and Prussian armies that were advancing towards France’s eastern borders.

**The Continental System, 1806-1812**

With the invasion of Britain out of the question, Napoleon tried a different kind of warfare against Britain. The aim of the **Berlin Decrees** was to force Britain to come to terms by destroying her trade with Continental Europe. The blockade resulted in an immediate fall in the quantity of goods imported into and exported out of Britain. One state Portugal, refused to join it. Napoleon decided to force it to join. In 1808 French armies overrun Spain and Portugal and occupied Madrid and Lisbon.

**Rebellion in Spain – The Peninsular War, 1808-1814**

But the invasion of Portugal soon led to unexpected problems for Napoleon. The Portuguese and the Spaniards hated French rule over their country. Most Spaniards felt offended when Napoleon occupied Madrid, removed their King Charles IV and put his brother Joseph in his place. In 1808 the Spaniards rebelled against the French and began a guerrilla war against them. The French went to great lengths to crush the Spanish rebellion. Britain quickly joined in the fighting to help the Portuguese. Britain sent troops under General Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) to fight in the Peninsular War. For Napoleon this war became known as the Spanish Ulcer for he had to keep a large French army of 30,000 soldiers tied down in Spain.

**The Russian Campaign, 1812**

The Continental System created similar problems for Napoleon with Russia. In 1811 the Czar decided to leave the system for it was damaging Russia’s trade. He opened his ports to British ships. Napoleon decided to force the Czar back to the system. In the summer of 1812 he invaded Russia from Poland with the Grand Army of 600,000 men. The Russian armies retreated before the French army. Napoleon won the **Battle of Borodino** and entered Moscow in September. It look like another triumph for Napoleon, but it was not to be.

What went wrong? Problems began as soon as the Grand Army entered Russia. The Russians burned own whole fields and villages to stop the French from finding food (scorched earth policy). When the French entered Moscow, they found a deserted city. The Czar ordered the city to be burned so that the French would not use it as shelter for the winter. With the first cold weather Napoleon ordered the army to retreat to Poland. During the retreat more than half the French army died of the freezing winter weather. A further 200,000 were taken prisoner by the Russians, half of them died in captivity.
# Unit 7.5 Napoleon’s defeat and fall (1813-1815)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The War of Liberation, 1813-1814</th>
<th>Napoleon’s defeat in Russia led to more disasters. Russia, Sweden, Prussia, Britain, Austria and the German states joined together as allies and drove the French out of central Europe. In 1814 the allies crossed into France and went on to occupy Paris. The allied army marched through Paris and proclaimed Louis XVIII (Louis XVI’s brother) as the new King of France.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exile at Elba, 1814-1815</td>
<td>Napoleon surrendered in April. He was exiled on the island of Elba but left with the title of Emperor. There he soon became restless and unhappy. When he heard that Louis XVIII was becoming unpopular, he decided to return to France. In March 1815 he secretly sailed from Elba and landed in France. King Louis fled before Napoleon entered Paris, welcomed by cheering crowds shouting ‘Vive l’Empeurer’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hundred Days, 1815</td>
<td>Napoleon’s second empire lasted only 95 days. The allies put together six armies to crush him. Napoleon marched with 120,000 men to meet them in Belgium. There he beat the Prussians and attacked the British army at the Battle of Waterloo, near Brussels. But the British, led by the Duke of Wellington resisted his attacks until the Prussians returned and joined in the fighting. Napoleon left the battlefield and returned to Paris. There he abdicated for the second time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exile at St Elena, 1815-1821</td>
<td>Napoleon hoped that the British would allow him to live in England. But the British had other plans for him. They took him to the British island of St Helena in the South Atlantic, from where he could never escape. There he spent the rest of his life in captivity writing his <em>memoirs</em>. He died there of stomach cancer in May 1821.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Napoleonic Legend, 1840</td>
<td>In 1840 the government of King Louis Philippe, in order to gain popularity, obtained the permission from Britain to bring Napoleon’s corps to a ceremonious burial in France. Napoleon’s body travelled in an open train across France. It was placed to rest in a mausoleum in the Hotel des Invalides in Paris.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. The Allies occupying Paris, 1814
2. The Congress of Vienna
3. Parisian revolutionaries in 1848.

The Congress of Vienna, 1814-1815

With Napoleon defeated, the Congress of Vienna met to redraw the map of Europe. The old politicians re-created many of the old states that Napoleon had destroyed. Old royal families took their thrones in Spain, Holland, Italy and Germany. **Italy** was divided into twelve states, the northern states under Austria. The **German Confederation** was made up of 39 states and it included Austria and Prussia. Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg were united into one kingdom (**Kingdom of the Netherlands**). **Poland** was given to Russia. Prussia received the **Rhineland** as a buffer against a French attack against Germany.

Nationalism

During the **Revolutionary Wars**, the French set up new nations in lands they had conquered (in Italy, Germany, Poland). Many Europeans found out what it was like to live in their own nations. This came to an end in 1815 with the Congress of Vienna. Millions of Italians came again under Austrian rule, Poles under Russian rule, Belgians under Dutch rule and so on. Napoleon and the French, however, had set an example that these people would not forget. In 1830 and 1848 people who were not happy with the way their country was governed, did what the French had done in 1789 – they rebelled against their foreign rulers.

Liberalism

The idea of giving people **liberty** and **equality** through a constitution was one of the important achievements of the French Revolution. Liberal constitutions were introduced into the states that came under French control. The idea of liberty and equality therefore spread across Europe. But in 1815 the old rulers of Europe took back their thrones and got rid of these constitutions and went back ruling in the old way. Millions of Europeans became **liberals**, believing in the ideas of liberty and equality, and wanting a constitution giving them rights. The liberals were to take a leading part in the European revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

The Metternich System, 1815-1848

Metternich, the Austrian Chancellor convinced the other European leaders to join together to crush revolutions (the **Congress System**). In Austria, Germany and Italy Metternich set up a **secret police system** to look for **secret societies** made up of liberals, nationalists and revolutionary groups. These groups plotted secretly to bring down **conservative** governments in Europe. Metternich’s system survived until his downfall with the European Revolutions of 1848.

Memories of the Revolution and Napoleon

The legacies of the French Revolution were: (a) the **Declaration of Rights of Man**, (b) the French **tricolor flag**, (c) the **Marseillais** (France’s national anthem), and (d) the **14th of July** (Bastille Day) which became the national day of France.

The legacies of Napoleon were: (a) the **Napoleonic Legend** created and kept alive with numerous monuments to his memory: the **Hotel des Invalides**, the **Arc de Triomphe** and (b) the **Code Napoleon** which remained France’s legal code until the early 1900s.
Complete the following matrix about the chronology of Napoleon’s rise and fall from power.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1796</td>
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(10 x 2 = 20 marks)
Complete the following matrix to explain the historical importance of these events in Napoleon’s career.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The Italian Campaign 1796-1797</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>The Coup d’État 9 Nov, 1799</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>The Concordat with the Church, 1801</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>The <em>Code Napoleon</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Napoleon becomes Emperor</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>The Continental System or Blockade, 1806-1812</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>The Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal, 1808-1814</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>The Russian Campaign, 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>The War of Liberation, 1813-1814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>The Hundred Days, 1815</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(10 x 2 = 20 marks)
1. Napoleon Bonaparte was born in 1769 on the island of ______________ from a middle class family and was sent to study at a military school in France.

2. During the French _______________ Napoleon joined the Jacobin Party, was imprisoned with Robespierre’s downfall, but in 1795 he was then readmitted in the French Army.

3. Napoleon became famous when he saved the _______________ from a royalist revolt in Paris in October 1795.

4. In 1796 he was appointed ____________ of the French army in Italy against the Austrians.

5. While Napoleon was in ________________, the British defeated and sank the French fleet at the Battle of Aboukir.

6. In November 1799, Napoleon seized power and became First ________________, or virtual dictator of France.

7. Napoleon made two important achievements: the _______________ with the Pope and the ________________ Code, both of which were retained after his downfall.

8. In 1804 Napoleon reached the peak of his career when he was proclaimed ________________.

9. In 1806 he set up the ________________ Blockade against British trade in Europe.

10. By the Treaty of Tilsit in 1807, Napoleon and Czar ________________ of Russia divided Europe into two sphere of influence, one French and one Russian.

11. The Spanish ________________ (1808) and the ________________ Campaign (1812) marked the beginning of Napoleon’s downfall.

12. The Allies entered Paris, declared France a ________________ again and proclaimed ________________ as King of France.

13. In March 1815 Napoleon escaped from the island of ________________ and was again proclaimed emperor.

14. Napoleon’s ________________ Days ended with his final defeat at the Battle of ________________ in June 1815 by the British and Prussian armies.

15. Napoleon was then exiled on the island of ________________ where he wrote his ________________. There he died in 1821 at the premature age of 51.
Unit 7.7  Witten Source Question on Napoleon’s rule

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

Source 1: Quoted from R.C. Bridges, P. Dukes, J.D. Hargreaves and W. Scott (eds), Nations and Empires, (1968), p. 88


1.1 What does source 1 speak about? ________________________________________________ (1)

1.2 Is source 1 primary or secondary? Why? ___________________________________________ (2)

1.3 Who wrote source 1 and for whom was it intended? ________________________________ (2)

1.4 Is source 1 reliable to the historian doing research on Napoleon? State why? ________________________________________________________________ (1,2)

1.5 Identify two progressive laws included in the Code Napoleon. ______________________________ (2)

1.6 When Napoleon became Emperor he set up a new class of nobility in France. In what way did he go contrary to the principles of the French Revolution? __________________________________________________________ (2)

1.7 Is source 2 primary or secondary? State why? __________________________________________ (2)

1.8 What made Napoleon’s rule unpopular. Use source 2 to help you answer. __________________________________________________________ (1)

1.9 Is source 2 reliable? State why? ____________________________________________________ (1,2)

1.10 Having read these two sources about Napoleon, how would you assess (evaluate) Napoleon’s rule in France and in Europe? __________________________________________________________ (2)

In-Set Working Group, September 2009
(Total marks 20)
Read carefully the following sources and then answer all the questions.

‘My Brother, the magnificent town of Moscow no longer exists. Rostopchin has had it burned….The fires seem to have stopped at last. Three quarters of the houses have been burned: only a quarter are left standing. This is an atrocious and meaningless act. Was it done with the intention of depriving us of supplies? But these supplies were in the cellars, where the fire could not reach them. In any case, how could anyone destroy one of the loveliest cities in the world – the work of centuries – for such a wretched purpose? If I had supposed that such things had been done by your Majesty’s orders, I should not write to you this letter: but with your principles, your heart, the soundness of your ideas, it is, I think, impossible that you should have authorized such excesses, unworthy as they are of a great sovereign and a great nation.

I made war on your Majesty without rancour; a note from you, before or after the last battle, would have cut short by expedition, and I should have given up the advantage of entering Moscow. If your Majesty still feels any of the old friendliness towards me, you will take this letter in good part.’

Source: Part of a letter written by Napoleon to Russian Czar.

1.1 Give the year (_________) and the place (______________) when this letter was written. (2)

1.2 Who was the Czar to whom this letter was written? ______________________________ (1)

1.2 What is the subject matter of this letter? ________________________________________

1.3 Suggest two reasons why Napoleon wrote this letter. 
   (1)
   (1)

1.4 Why did Napoleon had made war on your Majesty (line 9)? ______________________

1.5 Explain what Napoleon meant when he wrote of the old friendliness (line 11)?

1.6 How is the event described in the source known in history? _________________________ (1)

1.7.1 What action was forced upon Napoleon by the burning of Moscow, and why?  

1.7.2 Was this action successful or not? Give reasons for your answer.  

1.8 Show how this expedition, together with other factors, brought about Napoleon’s downfall. 

(Total Marks 20)
Unit 7.9 Napoleon Bonaparte, 1792-1821

Read carefully the following essay titles and answer any ONE in about 200 to 300 words. Essays carry 20 marks each.

PAPER 2A

On Napoleonic era

1. (a) Outline, and explain, Napoleon’s military career in the years before 1812. (12)
   (b) Why, by 1815, was he defeated? (8) (London GCE)

2. It is often said that Napoleon Bonaparte was initially a success but ultimately a failure. Discuss. (SEC 2009)

3. How far was Napoleon's foreign policy successful. (SEC 2012)


On the Congress of Vienna

5. ‘An uneasy mixture of ideals and self-interest.’ Outline the political arrangements made at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and comment upon this description of them. (London GCE)

PAPER 2B

On Napoleonic era

1. Napoleon Bonaparte embarked on two campaigns which contributed to his final downfall.
   (a) How did the Spanish campaign affect Napoleon’s security on his western front? (10)
   (b) What was the contribution of the Russian campaign to Napoleon’s future? (10) (SEC1998)

2. (a) Account for Napoleon Bonaparte’s initial successes up to 1804. (4)
   (b) Why was his domestic policy successful? (5)
   (c) What was the Continental System and how far did Napoleon succeed in his intentions? (5)
   (d) Why was Napoleon’s Moscow Campaign a failure? (5)
   (e) What lasting effects did Napoleon have on Europe? (5) (SEC 2009)