



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/56

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

May/June 2016

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

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

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Section A

Nominated topic: Long-term causes of Revolution and the period 1786–1788

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting on the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

A *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 your 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.

B *The Queen writes to her brother, Joseph II of Austria, about Louis XVI's actions towards critics.*

The king went to the *Parlement* to register two edicts about extending loans and giving Protestants more rights. After everyone had given his opinion on the first, the king, without counting the votes, said 'I order the edicts to be registered'. The Duke of Orleans managed to have a resolution passed declaring the registration illegal. The king exiled him to his country estates. Two members of the *Parlement* have spoken disrespectfully and have been imprisoned. I am grieved that we have to employ such authoritarian methods, but they have become necessary and I hope they will be a deterrent. The king's second edict was to give civil rights to Protestants by recognising their marriages and baptisms. The king has announced that he will hold an Estates General in five years' time. There is such a demand for this that the king was advised to summon it on his own initiative to ensure that the meeting would be manageable.

Marie Antoinette, Letter, 23 November 1787.

C *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.

- D** *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 States 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.

- E** *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.

- (a)** To what extent does Document C corroborate the view of privilege expressed in Document A? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that, by 1789, a weak king's inability to deal with a selfish nobility was mainly responsible for creating the conditions which led to revolution? In making your evaluation you should refer to contextual knowledge, as well as to the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 Was the Constitution of 1791 'doomed to fail'? [30]
- 3 Why was there so much social upheaval both in Paris and in the provinces in the years 1789–1792? [30]
- 4 What best explains the fall of Robespierre? [30]

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