THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The Political System of France:

- The system of government before the revolution was called the Ancient regime (French word meaning the Old Order)
- This is a system of government in which the king is given absolute or complete power – called absolutism
- The King of France was King Louis XVI (16th) – inherited the throne - monarchy
- It was believed that he ruled or became King because God had wished it to be so and everyone had to obey him
- The King made all the laws and was only answerable to God – he ruled by divine right (because God had out him in that position)
- People had no rights unless the King chose to grant them some
- He married an Austrian princess – Marie Antoinette

Lettres de Cachet (Letters of the sign) – Letter di cashey

- The right of the King to arrest and imprison people without a fair trial – an abuse of power of those in authority
- No reason needed to be given and the victim could be held for any length of time - the duration of imprisonment was not specified
- It was already signed by the King and Secretary of state – names had to be filled in only – could be bought (corruption) and used against your own enemies
- During the French Revolution the use of lettres de cachet was abolished by the Constituent Assembly in March 1790.

Social Conditions in France:
The people of France were divided into 3 estates:

1. **First estate – Clergy** – had wealth, power and opportunities
2. **Second estate – Nobles** – had wealth, power and feudal privileges
3. **Third Estate** –
   a) **Middle class – bourgeoisie (owned property or businesses)** – they were traders or professionals
   b) **Urban workers** – in towns – very poor living conditions
   c) **Peasant farmers** – paid most taxes – very poor

**The First Estate:**

- Made of the clergy – priests that served the Catholic Church
- The Church owned 10% of the land in France
- The Church paid no taxes – it gave a grant to the state every 5 years which they decide upon
- The Church ran the schools – they could influence the people through their teachings

**The Second Estate:**

- Nobles – they were the privileged people
- They were given titles by the King – Lord, Duke, Prince, count, Knight etc.
- The Nobles owned 20% of the land
- They were the only ones who could reach the highest positions in the church and become officers in the army
- They did not have to pay certain taxes
- They had feudal rights – rights that the landlord had over his tenants for allowing them to live on his land

**The Third Estate:**

1. **The Peasants**
   - They made up the largest number of the population – more than 80% of the population
   - They owned more than 25% of the land but their plots were small and they could not live off their land
   - They used old-fashioned methods of arming making it difficult to produce more
   - Some had to work for others and some went hungry

   The peasants were the most heavily taxed:
   1. The Taille tax – tax on income or land
   2. A poll tax – head tax (to vote in an election)
   3. The Twentieth tax – pay $1/20^{th}$ of your year’s earnings
   4. The corvée tax – state labour tax – form of unpaid work building and repairing roads
   5. The gabelle tax – a tax on salt
   6. The Tithe tax – 10% of a years earning paid to the church
   7. Feudal dues – paid to the lord for the use of his land or equipment – had to pay rent and give him a portion of their crops and had to work for free for him for several days in the year
   8. Tax farmers – paid for the right to collect taxes

**The Middle Class:**

- Businessmen, traders, doctors, lawyers or government officials
- They were better off than the peasants – they could buy positions or titles and become nobles
- They felt that they deserved to be nobles because they were more educated and they had wealth
The Urban Workers:

- The people working in town – clerks, carpenters, tailors, small traders etc.
- They could not keep up with the cost of living although they were getting wages – everything got more expensive
- They got poorer and were unhappy

The Financial Crisis:

- France had entered into a period of financial crisis in 1789 – France was spending more money than it had
- The only way to get more money was to increase taxation or borrow money
- The French government had taken out loans from foreign banks and they had to pay interest on these loans – big expense
- The peasants were already heavily taxed so the clergy and the nobility will have to be taxed
- A general tax on land was proposed that should be applied to all the estates
- This idea was rejected by the Parlement of Paris (body of nobles which had to register new laws)
- The parlement was dismissed by the king and violence broke out all over France
- The popular minister of finance Jacques Necker was brought back after the king dismissed him because he was blamed for the debt and financial situation that France was in (he controlled France’s wealth)

THE 1ST PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION (4 May 1789 – April 1792)

- THE ESTATES GENERAL (representatives of all 3 estates) – (5 May 1789)
- NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (ALL 3 ESTATES JOINED TOGETHER – BECAME 1) – (17 June 1789)
- TENNIS COURT OATH – 20 June 1789
- STORMING OF THE BASTILLE – 14 July 1789
- THE GREAT FEAR – 17 July to 3 August 1789
- ABOLISHMENT OF FEUDAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES – 4 August 1789
- DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN – KING BECOMES CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH (ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE) – drafted on 26 August 1789
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- KING SIGNS THE DECLARATION – October 1789
- KING’S ESCAPE – FLIGHT TO VARENNES – 20 JUNE 1791
- WAR ON AUSTRIA – 20 April 1792
- THE JACOBINS CLUB WAS FORMED – June 1792
- KING TRIAL – 13 August 1972
1. **The Meeting of the Estates General**
   - The Estates General was a body that included all 3 estates.
   - The meeting was called in Paris on 4th of May 1789 to discuss the financial crisis.
   - The 3 estates met in separate halls at the Palace of Versailles near Paris.
   - At the meeting voting rights became an issue.
   - The 3rd estate wanted double representation because of its size – made up over 90% of the population.
   - The King agreed to give the 3rd estate double representation.
   - It was not decided whether voting would take place by estate or by head.
   - By the end of May, the 3rd estate decided to invite the other 2 estates to join them – a few priests did.
   - The 3rd estate changed their name to the ‘National Assembly’.
   - The Clergy also voted to join the 3rd estate.

2. **The Tennis Court Oath**
   - On the 20th June 1789 the 3rd estate arrived at the Palace to meet but they found that their hall was locked – it was ordered by the king.
   - They then gathered in the indoor tennis court and took an oath (promise) never to separate until a constitution was established – called the Tennis Court Oath.
   - The **constitution** of a nation is the set of rules that govern how a government can exercise public power.
   - The King threatened the 3rd estate but they insisted that they want to meet with the king and draw up a new constitution.
   - More clergy and nobles joined them – the king accepted the situation and ordered the other 2 estates to join the national assembly.
   - The 3 estates now became 1 body - this was the 1st stage of the revolution.
3. **The Storming of the Bastille:**

- The people feared that the King would try to stop the revolution by force after seeing the troops.
- On the 14th of July 1789 the people gathered in a great crowd in search of guns and ammunition to protect themselves.
- They stormed the Bastille (prison) in search of ammunition – they released the prisoners and killed those defending the Bastille.
- The cut off the governor’s head (decapitated) and carried it on a spike through the streets of Paris.
- Anyone who disobeyed the King was sent to the Bastille and the Bastille became a hated symbol of the King’s power.
- 14 July is commemorated (celebrated) every year as the French National Day.

4. **The Great Fear:**

- Violence spread to the countryside – peasants protested against feudal dues, they wanted feudalism to be abolished – took place from 17 July to 3 August 1789.
- They burnt down the nobles’ homes and destroyed feudal records – this was called the Great Fear.
- Due to the violence and unrest the National assembly abolished feudal rights and privileges on 4 August 1789.
- To stop the violence in Paris a National Guard was established – 800 people and was controlled by Lafayette.
- A local government was established in Paris called the Paris Commune.

5. **The Declaration of the Rights of Man:**

- On the 26 August 1789 the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the citizen was drawn up by the National Assembly.
- This document recognized the rights of all men and equality of all men – this law must apply to all.
- It also stated the law to govern comes from the nation not from God – there must be representatives of the people.
- The declaration stated that tax should be applied to all according to their means – the more you earn the more you pay.
- It also stated that there must be freedom of religion and expression.
- The declaration however did not include rights of women and it did not abolish slavery in the French colonies.
- The King did not accept the Declaration and did not sign it.

6. **The Women’s March to Versailles:**

- The bread price was very high and there was no food for the starving people.
- The people wanted the royal family to come back to Paris and see how the people were suffering while they were enjoying themselves at the Palace.
- The women of Paris decided to take matters into their own hands and marched 11 km to the Palace of Versailles on the 5 October 1789.
- They wanted to bring back the King so that he could see how the people are suffering.
- When they reached the palace they demanded to see the King.
- The National Guard arrived at Versailles and demanded that the king return to Paris.
- They royal family was taken back to the old Palace in Paris (Tuileries) and were guarded by the Paris Commune.
• The king was forced to sign the declaration
• The National Assembly also joined the king in Paris

Reforms/changes by the National Assembly:
• King Louis was declared the King of the French people and not the King of France
• He had to rule under the constitution only – judges were to be elected by the people not by the king
• The churches’ land was taken over by the state and was sold to the people
• The priests and bishops had to take an oath of loyalty to the state than to the Pope in Rome many priests refused to take the oath – the church became divided

Flight to Varennes:
• The King decided to get help from Marie Antoinette’s brother Leopold II – he was the Austrian emperor
• He wanted to raise an army to crush the revolution – Leopold promised him that he would give Austrian troops if he made it to Montmedy near the border of Belgium
• On 20 June 1791 – the royal family escaped in disguise in a carriage
• They got up to Varennes (240km from Paris) – the king was recognised and stopped – he was only 50 km away from the border
• The king and his family was escorted back to Paris – the people no longer trusted him
• They were imprisoned

The Sans Cullottes (1792):
• The working-class people called themselves the Sans culottes – they were not satisfied because their demands were not met
• They wanted increased wages, the end of food shortages and prevent extremes of wealth and property

War in France:
• Other European countries opposed what was happening in France because that the revolution would spread their countries and they would lose their power
• Hundreds of nobles and clergy that supported the king were imprisoned and executed
• The Sans culottes began attacking all those who were suspected of being enemies of the revolution
• France declared war on Austria in April 1792– the revolutionaries felt that by going to war the revolution would spread to other countries and the people would rise up against their monarchs
• Later war was declared on Prussia too
• By August the Austrian and Prussian forces headed towards Paris – to release the king
• The forces said that Paris would be destroyed if the king was not released – this only made the people angry and they attacked the Tuileries palace
• The King and his family was moved
THE 2nd PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION – 1791-1794

1. The Jacobins – June 1792
2. September Massacres – 2-7 September 1792
3. The National Convention – 21 September 1792
4. King’s Trial - 21 January 1793
5. Committee of Public Safety – April 1793
6. Law of Suspects – 17 September 1793
7. Robespierre executed – 27 July 1794

The Jacobins Club (The Society of the Friends of the Constitution):
- Formed in June 1792 – leader was Maximilien Robespierre (lawyer)
- Radical revolutionaries

The September Massacres
- Took place between the 2 – 7 September 1792
- Mass killing of prisoners that took place in Paris from September 2 to September 6 in 1792 (lasted 5 days—a major event of what is sometimes called the “First Terror” of the French Revolution.
- The people believed that political prisoners were planning to rise up in their jails to join a counterrevolutionary plot.
- There was a fear that foreign and royalist armies would attack Paris and that the inmates of the city's prisons would be freed and join them.
- On September 2nd gangs of armed sans culottes stormed most of the city's prisons and killed between 1,100 and 1,400 prisoners they were supported by the Jacobins

- The reason as to why the September Massacres broke out the in 1792 was mainly due to the suspicion and fear caused by the invasion of French soil by the Prussians, which then caused rumours that prisoners in Parisian prisons were plotting to escape and help the Prussians take over. This fear and suspicion caused the brutality of the Sans Culottes, the killers of the September Massacres led by the ruthless Marat, to kill many innocent people, under the claim that they were part of the counter-revolution

The National Convention
- On the 21 September 1792 the Jacobins declared France a republic and abolished the monarchy – the people were finally in power (a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch)
- Called themselves the National Convention
- Sovereign - That possesses full sovereignty over its affairs, existence, and territory and is complete in itself – a state that controls itself

The National Convention (20 September 1792 – 26 October 1792)
- The National Assembly was replaced by the National Convention
- The people in the national convention were divided and conflict arose
- There were 2 groups – the Jacobins (extremists) and the Girondins (moderates)
- The Jacobins won the support of the Sans culottes – they then surrounded the hall of the national Convention and demanded the arrest of all Girondins – 29 Girondins were arrested
The King’s Trial
- The king was put on trial (13 August 1792) before the National convention – he was found guilty and sentenced to death
- On the 21 January 1793 the king was executed by guillotine and his head was held up for the people to see
- Marie Antoinette was also tried and beheaded on 16 October 1793

The Committee of Public Safety
- This Committee was made up of 12 members and their task was to save the revolution from enemies within and outside France – instituted the Reign of Terror
- Their leader was Maximilien Robespierre (lawyer) – they executed all their rivals and imprisoned the king
- The Jacobins were at war with the whole of Europe – England, Holland, Spain, Austria and France was at war involved
- The National convention set up a Committee of Public Safety in April 1793 – made up of 12 men to deal with the emergency
- The Committee was led by Robespierre – and they set out to destroy all the enemies of the revolution

The Law of Suspects:
- The Law of Suspects was passed by the National Convention on 17 September 1793
- The law ordered the arrest of all enemies and suspected enemies of the Revolution - specifically aimed at nobles, émigrés, officials removed or suspended from office, officers suspected of treason, and hoarders of goods.
- Emigres – Noble landowners who fled France during the revolution

Reforms to the Government:
- The National Convention (Parliament) ordered Robespierre’s arrest - they were tried and executed on the same day – 27 July 1794
- The Committee of Public Safety was abolished
- The National convention drafted a new constitution - a new government was formed called the Directory
- The National Convention led by the Jacobins was closed

The Reign of Terror:
- This took place from 5 September 1793 - 27 July 1794 (when Robespierre was killed)
- This period was called the reign of terror - all those who disagreed with the government were regarded as criminals and punished
- People were scared because many people were being killed for minor offences – they wanted to get rid of anyone who did not support the revolution
- During the Reign of Terror, at least 300,000 suspects were arrested; 17,000 were officially executed, and about 10,000 died in prison or without trial.

The end of the Reign of Terror:
- The need for terror declined because:
  1. People accepted that France had become a Republic (a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.
2. Conspiracy by nobles against the state had stopped
3. The will to punish other had declined
4. The sans-culottes went home to tend to their businesses

The Period of Reaction:

- After the reign of Terror, the people were tired of violence and bloodshed and the revolution turned to the Right wing (conservative view) – those in favour of preserving/keeping the traditional system of the Old order – Left wing (those in favour of radical change)
- This period was known as the period of reaction – movement towards the Old Order

The Directory (November 1795 – November 1799):

- In the new government (The Directory) – 5 Directors were given full power to govern France
- The new constitution of 1795 gave power to those who owned some property
- The Franchise of the poor was removed (the right to vote - 1793)
- They aimed to restore order and suppress the extremists by stopping them with force
- The Revolution started to move towards the Old Order

Napoleon Bonaparte:

- He was a general in the army and a military genius
- The Directory was faced with many issues - inefficiency, economic depression, corruption, bribery and extravagance
- Napoleon led a coup d’etat in (sudden, violent and illegal seizure of power from the government) in November 1799 which overthrew the Directory

The Consulate (November 1799 - May 1804)

- The Directory was replaced by the Consulate - Consulate was made up of only 3 members (consuls) that had full power – the first consul was important and this position was given to Napoleon Bonaparte
- He could appoint all chief state officials and had the right to declare war and peace as well as propose laws
- He could only be in this position for ten years – this restriction was removed in 1802 and Napoleon made himself Consul for life with the right to choose his successor
- In 1804 he proclaimed himself Napoleon I the Emperor of France – he wanted the other heads of Europe to regard him as a legitimate monarch
- He crowned himself emperor at a planned coronation in December 1804
- The crowning was usually done by the pope but Napoleon crowned himself to show that he did not accept the Pope’s authority over him
- Napoleon then ruled as a dictator
- Napoleon had many portraits painted of himself as a hero – his portraits were like propaganda - he wanted the people to view him as the real hero of the French nation and the French revolution

Napoleon’s Reforms:

- To improve the economy, he established a stable currency called the Franc – it was based on gold
- People were taxed according to their means and official tax collectors were appointed by the central government to ensure that all tax money reached the government
• After the abolishment of the feudal system, new laws had been passed in a very disorganised way – Napoleon appointed a committee of experts to classify the laws into 5 categories - these 5 categories were called the Code Napoleon:
  1. Criminal
  2. Civil
  3. Commercial
  4. Civil procedure (defence of people’s rights)
  5. Penal (punishment)
• Napoleon preserve some of the gains of the Revolution
• The Code Napoleon (Civil Code) upheld the revolutionary principles of:
  1. Freedom of religion
  2. Equality before the law
  3. Freedom of opportunity
  4. An end to privilege by birth
• Napoleon granted freedom of religion to the Jews and improved their conditions
• There was no true freedom of speech or expression under Napoleon – he believed that if the press was not controlled he would not remain in power
• Napoleon had a secret police which arrested suspected opposition of the government without charge and imprisoned them without trial – this was against the principles of the Revolution
• Inherited privilege was gone for good – he introduced the Legion of Honour – the highest award for service to the country – this strengthened the principle of equal opportunity
• The Legion of Honour recognises nobility according talent and service not to birth – it is the highest honour that any Frenchman or Frenchwomen can receive – this medal is still awarded today
• Napoleon reformed education and promoted the following ideas:
  a) The importance of teaching patriotism (love of one’s country)
  b) Obedience to authority
  c) Military values
  d) Unity
• Napoleon reformed and centralised government to make it more efficient
• He built up the infrastructure of France – he had many roads, canals and bridges built – to improve communications and link different parts of the country – this helped trade and transport
• He was responsible for beautifying France’s cities with new buildings and memorials

The Law of the Family:
• The law of the family – Napoleon proclaimed that the father had almost complete control over his wife and children
• Napoleon only saw the woman as a bearer of children and keeper of the household and entirely subject to her husband’s authority
• A father could legally lock up disobedient children for a month at a time

The Concordat:
• A Concordat is a formal agreement that Napoleon and the Pope signed in order to make peace
• The Concordat recognised the catholic church as the religion of the majority of the French people but required that an oath of loyalty to the state must be taken by the clergy
• The church gave up the lands it lost during the revolution and the priests would be paid by the state in future
Freedom of religion for all was accepted
Through the Concordat Napoleon won the support of the devout Catholics of France who turned away from the revolution because of its policies
Napoleon believed that the people must have religion but religion must be in the hands of the government

The Role of Women in the Revolution:
Olympe de Gouges published the Declaration of the Rights of Women – she was executed at the guillotine
Woman is born free and equal to man in rights
Women were never granted full political rights during the revolution
Some women established political clubs to campaign for their rights – right to take action for divorce and equal rights to inheritance – they managed to obtain these rights
Women’s clubs were closed during the Reign of Terror

The Impact of the French Revolution:
The French army spread the new ideas of liberalism and nationalism
Liberalism – people are entitled to personal rights and freedom including the right to share in a government (democracy)
Nationalism – a belief that people belonged together when they live in the same state (homeland)
Some of the important revolutionary principles:
1. Freedom of religion
2. Equality before the law
3. Freedom of opportunity
4. An end to privilege by birth
These ideas were spread throughout the world - this helped them achieve self-government and independence

Aims of the Revolution:
To limit the power of the monarchy and the nobility
To cut back on the powers of the church
To gain some say in power
To gain some rights, including free expression
To achieve a fairer system of taxation
To gain positions for which their education and talents equipped them
To gain a greater share in the wealth of the country
### Social Conditions in France prior to the French Revolution

Let us analyse the structure of French society to show how it contributed to the revolution.

#### Structure of French Society

The French Society for many generations had been divided into 3 Estates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Estate</th>
<th>Second Estate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Estate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First estate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second estate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Constituted 1% of the population of France, consisting of the upper and the lower clergy.</td>
<td>- Constituted 2-5% of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Owned 10-15% of the land.</td>
<td>- There were two types of nobles namely:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- They were exempt from taxes but collected tithes (10% of income) from the people. The proceeds from this tax generally went to the upper clergy.</td>
<td>- the Nobles of the Sword who were nobles by birth and enjoyed much prestige.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Their tasks included registration of births, deaths and marriages, censors of books, acted as moral police and operated schools. Much of these tasks were accomplished by the lower clergy.</td>
<td>- the Nobles of the Robe were nobles who bought their positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The lower clergy, saw very little of the church revenue. They were the parish priests, commoners by birth who did the hard work of the Church. They became supporters of the revolution.</td>
<td>- Owned 20% of the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The upper clergy, who were of noble birth, occupied the positions of abbots and bishops. They were in the church to secure additional income and property. They opposed changes, especially the abolition of tax exemption.</td>
<td>- They occupied the highest positions in the church, army and government.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Enjoyed many privileges such as not having to do military duty.</td>
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<td>- They were exempt from taxes but collected rent and feudal dues from peasants.</td>
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<td>- Their outrageous demands on the peasants included forced labour, a share of peasants' harvests, a fee for the use of lands, mills, wine presses, roads etc.</td>
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<td>- Their refusal to pay tax and the determination to maintain their privileges was a major cause of the outbreak of the revolution.</td>
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</tbody>
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Let us focus our attention on the Third Estate

The cartoon below depicts how the third estate suffered at the hands of the nobles and clergy.

How did the discrimination against the Third Estate and their exploitation contribute to the revolution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOURGEOISIE</th>
<th>PEASANTS</th>
<th>WORKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8% of the population</td>
<td>90% of the population</td>
<td>Known as the sans culottes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned 20% of the land</td>
<td>Paid <em>gabelle</em> and <em>taille</em> to the state</td>
<td>Lived in the urban areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well educated and rich</td>
<td>Lived in intense poverty</td>
<td>Were factory workers, journeymen and wage-earners; very poor because of low pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointed that they had no say in the running of the country</td>
<td>Paid feudal dues to the nobles</td>
<td>Due to poverty and unemployment, were prone to acts of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided leadership in the revolution</td>
<td>Performed unpaid labour for the state</td>
<td>Most politicised group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What did the Bourgeois (middle class) want?

- Church, army and government posts open to men of talent and merit.
- A constitution that would limit the King’s power.
- A parliament that would make all the laws for the nation.
- Legal, religious and administrative reforms.
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

MONARCHY
KING LOUIS XVI (absolute power) - (1774-1792)

THE ESTATES GENERAL (representatives of all 3 estates) – (5 May 1789)

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NATIONAL CONVENTION (JACOBINS) – (20 September 1792 – 26 October 1792)
(NEW PARLIAMENT THAT REPLACED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY)
- ABOLISHED MONARCHY – 21 September 1792 – FRANCE DECLARED A REPUBLIC A Republic is a form of government in which power resides with the people, and the government is ruled by elected leaders who govern according to laws designed to help citizens
- EXECUTED THE KING – 21 January 1793
- FIRST ELECTION BY MEN OVER THE AGE OF 21
- COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY – TO DEAL WITH THE EMERGENCY (12 MEN) – LED BY MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE – (6 April 1793)
- REIGN OF TERROR - 5 September 1793
- THE LAW OF SUSPECTS – 17 September 1793
- MARIE ANTIONETTE EXECUTED – 16 October 1793

DIRECTORY – (in power for 4 years – 2 November 1795 - 10 November 1799)
(5 DIRECTORS)
- POWER GIVEN TO THOSE WHO OWNED PROPERTY
- FRANCHISE OF THE POOR WAS REMOVED
- COUP D’ETAT (9 November 1799)

CONSULATE - (10 November 1799- 18 May 1804)
3 LEADERS
- NAPOLEON WAS FIRST CONSUL

EMPEROR NAPOLEON I – (18 May 1804 – 6 April 1814)
- DICTATOR/ABSOLUTE POWER
  Full rotation – comes back same way
CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:

1. Clergy - The First Estate
   - Challenged the absolute right to rule
   - Liberal society can flourish with free commerce

2. Nobility - The Second Estate
   - Appealed to bourgeois grievances
   - Population divided into three classes
   - France was an absolute monarchy with a weak monarch

3. Commons - The Third Estate
   - He was incapable of strong decisive action
   - France sent troops and supplies to aid the American revolutionaries
   - He preferred personal interest to court interests

Liberal freedoms for all men
- No taxation without representation

A republic is superior to a monarchy

The peasants and bourgeoisie were unhappy because they had to pay all the taxes

Need for tax reform

Financial difficulties

Nobles were determined not to give up their tax concessions

Extravagant spending on courts

Over ambitious wars

How did the following members of the royal family contribute to their own downfall?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Marie Antoinette</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His reign was doomed to failure because:</td>
<td>Married to Louis at the age of 15, her negative influence played a significant role in the collapse of the Bourbon Monarchy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He assumed power at a time when the French society had reached an advanced state of decay. The state faced enormous debts</td>
<td>She became unpopular with the French masses, who referred to her as &quot;that Austrian woman&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A frustrated nobility was demanding more power</td>
<td>Her growing unpopularity stemmed from the fact that she:</td>
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<tr>
<td>His all-consuming interest in hunting and horse-riding was at the expense of matters of the state</td>
<td>Being a foreigner, refused to make an attempt to understand the ways of the common French people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His well-meaning but weak personality was characterised by lethargy and indecisiveness. He was dominated by a strong-willed, foreign-born wife</td>
<td>Was extremely extravagant spending huge amounts of money on clothing, jewellery, gambling and entertainment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He promoted the hated practise of lettres de cachet</td>
<td>Openly sided with the nobility</td>
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</table>
THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.
2. The natural rights of man – freedom, property, security and resistance to oppression – must be protected.
3. No individual may exercise any authority that does not come from the nation.
4. Liberty consists in being able to do anything that does not harm other people.
5. The law has only the right to forbid those actions that are harmful to society.
6. Law is the expression of the general will. The law must be the same for all, whether it protects or it punishes. All citizens are equally eligible for all important offices, positions and public employments, according to their ability and talents.
7. No man can be accused, arrested or imprisoned except when it is lawful.
8. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary.
9. The rights of man are inalienable and every man has the power to defend them.
10. All persons are entitled to their own opinions, even religious views, provided that their opinions do not disturb the peace as established by law.
11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious rights of man.
12. The security of the rights of man requires public military forces established for the good of all and not for personal advantage.
13. A common tax must be paid for the maintenance of the public force and administration. Citizens must only pay what they can afford.
14. All citizens have a right to decide the amount, uses and collection of taxes.
15. Society has the right to require of every public agent an account of his administration.
16. A society in which the observance of the law is not assured, nor the separation of powers defined, has no constitution at all.
17. Since property is a sacred right, no persons shall have their property taken away unless it is required

Right to a fair trial
Freedom of Religion
Freedom of Speech
Right of the people to create laws
‘Liberty, equality, fraternity’
Freedom of the Press

THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN
GOALS OF THE REVOLUTION:

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND FRATERNITY"

1. Liberty--kind of saying the freedom from oppression and the ability to make one's own choices in life. This ties in with the revolution because that is a major reason it was fought...to have the ability to self-govern without being told what to do by a king and parliament that was across the ocean. It was also freedom from things the colonists found to be offensive, such as rules regarding the ability of the government to obtain "blanket warrants" to search houses on little more than suspicion.

2. Equality--this is a tricky one because it is a broad word. Equality sounds like it would mean "for everyone" but that is not necessarily true. Women and slaves, for example, were not held to be equal. Men without property were not necessarily equal. In the sense of the revolution, it is probably taken to mean that men are "equal" to each other and that no one should have a royal title and think they are "better" than everyone else or have special privileges. That was a goal of the revolution, to take the monarchy out of the equation and institute a semi-democracy.

3. Fraternity--this usually means "brotherhood" or camaraderie. This occurs between soldiers fighting in a war, but in the sense of the revolution as a whole it more likely refers to a fraternity between the colonies...that the separate colonies were now going to operate much more closely and with a common interest in mind instead of acting like a lot of different little states. That was another goal of the revolution, to tie together the separate colonies and form one stronger entity.
**ESSAY QUESTION**

Discuss the political, social and economic conditions that led to the French Revolution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLITICAL CONDITIONS</th>
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<th>ECONOMIC CONDITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Absolute Monarchy – misuse of power and inability to rule efficiently</td>
<td>• The people of France were divided into 3 estates:</td>
<td>• France was in debts due to involvement in wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Louis XVI believed that God gave him the right to rule. (Divine Right of Kings)</td>
<td>1. First estate – Clergy – had wealth, power and opportunities</td>
<td>• The government could not repay loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• He claimed absolute power.</td>
<td>2. Second estate – Nobles – had wealth, power and feudal privileges</td>
<td>• The unfair taxation system – the rich did not pay taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• French people had to obey him without question - oppression</td>
<td>3. Third Estate: a) Middle class – Bourgeoisie (owned property or businesses) – they were traders or professionals – wanted a say in the running of the country and government posts</td>
<td>• Poor harvest, food shortages and rising bread prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The King made all the laws and was only answerable to God</td>
<td>b) Urban workers (Sans culottes) – in towns – very poor living conditions</td>
<td>• The king tried to increase taxes – calling of the Estates General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• People had no rights unless the King chose to grant them some</td>
<td>c) Peasant farmers – paid most taxes – very poor</td>
<td>• The banking system was not able to cope with the financial problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Poor leadership by the king</td>
<td>• The Feudal system – peasants wanted full rights as landowners and to be free from the nobles</td>
<td>• In 1879 France was bankrupt</td>
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<td>• Estate General had not met for 175 years – he could have called on them to help but he did not</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Financial crisis brought about the downfall of the monarchy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• He was doomed to fail because France was in an advanced state of decay.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Financial crisis brought about by a number of factors:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• He was more interested in hunting and fishing than matters of the state.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a) Rich did not pay taxes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Had a weak personality, dominated by his foreign wife.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Taxes paid by poorest of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promoted hated lettres de cachet – the right of the king to arrest and imprison people without a fair trial</td>
<td></td>
<td>c) Banking system unable to cope with financial crisis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marie Antoinette, his wife, very unpopular with the French people.</td>
<td></td>
<td>d) Cost of Wars, Seven Years War and American War of Independence – borrowed large sums of money to pay for food, weapons and wages for the army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• She was very extravagant, wasted huge sums of money on clothing, entertainment and gambling.</td>
<td></td>
<td>e) Cost of maintaining Palace of Versailles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• She sided with the nobility.</td>
<td>• The Parlements – law courts in France – they were hated by everyone because they registered laws made by the king, it tried cases for crime, public censoring and fixed prices of bread</td>
<td>f) Huge foreign debt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Parlements – law courts in France – they were hated by everyone because they registered laws made by the king, it tried cases for crime, public censoring and fixed prices of bread</td>
<td></td>
<td>g) Inefficient method of collecting taxes by tax farmers</td>
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### What did the Third estate want?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THE THIRD ESTATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESTATES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who were they?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why were they unhappy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did they want?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How did they react?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did they achieve?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The extract below, taken from *The Chronicles of the French Revolution* describes Napoleon’s personality.

Like most men of stature and power, Napoleon’s was a complex personality. He could work 18 to 20 hours at a stretch without so much as a break in concentration. He also had a love of action and a boundless ambition. He was an artist, a poet of action, for whom France, Europe and mankind were but instruments. He had charisma, he could move men to obedience, to loyalty and to heroic acts.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

He was also quite arrogant -- he manipulated people at will. “A man like me,” he once said, “troubles himself little about the lives of a million men.”

Although Napoleon was a dictator his domestic policy was clearly influenced by the Revolution. The following five areas of domestic policy demonstrate this: government, religion, law, education and the economy.

**Government** Napoleon provided France with a strong centralized government — a government he would himself dominate, as an emperor so he created an army of officials — civil servants and bureaucrats — an army which reached into every village, town and city. The entire nation was linked together under rational administration. The result was that Napoleon concentrated power and this provided him with taxes and soldiers. He believed that political liberty threatened the efficiency of the state with anarchy. He would govern in the interests of the people as an enlightened but absolute ruler.

**Religion** Napoleon believed that religion promoted national unity and prevented class war. It was for these reasons that he negotiated an agreement with the Pope. The Concordat of 1801 recognized Catholicism as the favoured religion of France — not the state religion. Jews, Protestants and Catholics could freely practice their religion. But the Church was under state control.

**Law** We mentioned that one of the causes of the Revolution was that 18th century France was plagued with numerous and sometimes conflicting codes of law. Napoleon instituted the CODE NAPOLEON which incorporated the great principles of 1789:
- equality before the law;
- careers open to talent;
- freedom of religion;
- protection of private property;
- abolition of servitude (form of slavery).

The Code, also had its less liberal side. Trade unions were outlawed, women were to be inferior to men by law, and children had no rights at all.

**Education** Like some of the philosophers and the majority of active revolutionaries, Napoleon favoured a state system of public education. The curriculum would be secular and schools would be managed under the direction of the state and not the Church. For Napoleon, education would serve a dual role. State funded education would provide him with capable officials necessary to administer his laws and trained officers to man his army.

**Economics** The following measures were introduced:
- aided industry through tariffs and loans.
- he built roads, bridges and canals.
- he established the Bank of France.
- he kept careers open to men of talent.
- provided bread at low prices.
- stimulated the employment of artisans.
- did not restore ancient feudal rights.
HAITI:

Introduction:

- Haiti was a French colony – it was known as Saint Domingue (San Domeng) – Island of Hispaniola (Caribbean)
- Saint Domingue was very valuable to France because it produced sugar, cotton, coffee, cocoa - these were products that were loved in Europe

The Population of Saint Domingue:

- The Population of SD was made up of:
  1) White French colonists
  2) Free people of mixed colour – called mulattos
  3) Black African slaves and descendants from these slaves
- There was a caste system amongst the people – people were separated according to their birth and culture

The Government of SD:

- Many of the rich white farmers wanted full independence from France so that they could do as they pleased on the island
- The mulattos began to demand civil rights and political rights alongside the whites – this led to an uprising in 1790 but it was brutally crushed by the French troops on the island
- In May 1791 the French Government granted citizenship to wealthy mulattos – the local white men refused to accept this
- In August 1791 - the mulattos and slaves together rose in revolt
- The revolt was extremely bloody with many thousands killed on both sides
- In May 1792 the French Legislative Assembly declared that all mulattos in the colonies would be granted full
  Civil and political rights – they sent 6000 French soldiers to SD to try to restore order

The Slaves and the War:

- In Feb 1793, France declared war on Britain and the next month on Spain
- Spain controlled the eastern part of Hispaniola called San Domingo (Dominican Republic) – Spanish Colony
- SD was on the western part Hispaniola – French colony
- The slave forces in SD joined with the Spanish to fight against the French Troops
- The French were afraid that they might lose the island – they freed all slaves under their command
- In Feb 1794 the French National Convention abolished slavery and granted full civil and political rights to black men in their colonies

Toussaint L’Ouverture (2san looviter)

- He was a self-educated domestic slave (black) who had been set free at the age of 33 – he was the leaders of the slave revolts – he trained a small military group to protect the revolution and for the slave uprising in 1791
- He decided to fight for the French rather than against – he was highly intelligent and had a great natural military ability
- With the assistance of other leaders, he managed to expel the Spanish and perused the British to withdraw
- He invaded San Domingo and freed the slaves there as well

The majority of the people were slaves
- The white colonists and some mulattos would travel between SD and France and would return with news of events and new ideas in France – this is how the ideas of the French Revolution spread to France
By 1801 Toussaint was able to rule SD alone – he drafted a constitution after they defeated all their opponents
He made himself Governor for life – independent state

Napoleon:
• This independence offended Napoleon – France
• He dispatched troops and warships to SD
• He removed Toussaint from office and in May 1802 re-established slavery in the French colonies
• Toussaint was seized and sent to France – under an agreement of safe passage (he could come and go freely)
• But he was imprisoned in terrible conditions – damp, cold, not enough food and no medical treatment
• He died in prison a few months from pneumonia (lung infection)

The Independence of Haiti:
• In 1803 a new slave rebellion occurred in SD and French forces were finally defeated
• Napoleon lost interest and sold the French land in North America to the United States
• On 1 January 1804 Haiti was declared independent – one of Toussaint’s former generals was its first ruler
• It was the first independent state in Latin America – first black-led state and the only state that gained its independence by a slave revolt
• Slavery continued in other French colonies – it was finally abolished in the French empire in 1848