



DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
HUMANITIES AND ARTS PROGRAMME

YEAR 3 History Unit 1
Worksheet

Name: _____ () Class: _____

**SBQ PRACTICE -1789 FRENCH REVOLUTION
FORMS FRAMEWORK & ANSWER**

Section A (18 marks)

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you were told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

(a) Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B and C.

How similar are the 2 sources in explaining the outbreak of the French Revolution? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

How useful is this source to a historian studying the causes of the French Revolution? Explain your answer. [7]

WITH ANSWER

What was the main cause of the French Revolution?

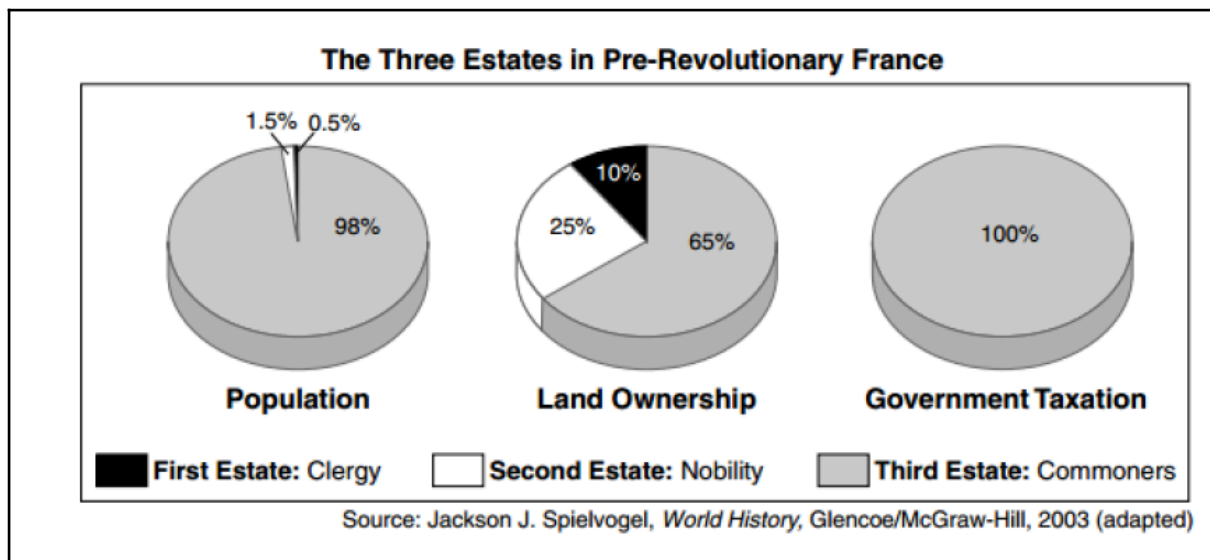
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

The **French Revolution** was a period of radical social and political upheaval in France that had a lasting impact on French history and more broadly throughout Europe. Political, social, and economic conditions in France contributed to the discontent felt by many French people-especially those of the third estate. The ideas of the intellectuals of the Enlightenment brought new views of government and society. The American Revolution also influenced the coming of the French Revolution.

So, what was the main cause behind the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789?

Source A: Statistics on the three Estates of France before the French Revolution, published in a textbook, 2003.



Source B: **Comte D'Antraigues, a pro-monarchy French nobleman**, speaking about the causes of the French Revolution in exile in Italy after 1789.

The condition of France alone did not bring about the overthrow of the monarchy... for the suffering of the people was not greater than they had been before. The ideas of the philosophers were not directly responsible for the outbreak...[but] the spark that changed thought into action was supplied by **the Declaration of American Independence...** The American example caused the Revolution to break out...

Source C: Excerpt from a textbook about the situation in Paris just before the French Revolution.

In normal times a worker spent up to 50 per cent of his income on bread. In August 1788 the price of a 1.8 kg loaf was 9 sous. By March 1789, it had risen to over 14 sous per loaf. **By the spring of 1789 a Parisian worker could be spending 88 per cent of his wages on bread.** This caused hardship and unrest amongst the Parisian population. For example, on 28 April 1789, the premises of a prosperous wallpaper manufacturer, Reveillon, were set on fire, following a rumour that he was going to reduce wages. But this **riot was more a violent protest against the scarcity and high price of bread than a protest against wages.** At least 50 people were killed or wounded by troops.

Source D: Excerpts from **cahiers (lists of grievances from the people of France compiled in the spring of 1789)** that were raised in the Estates General during the summer of 1789.

That the king be forced to reform the abuses and tyranny of letter de cachet (the practice of imprisonment by the King's decree and without a trial).

That every tax.... Be granted [by the Estates General] only for a limited time.

That the taille [a tax on land] be borne equally by all classes....

The meetings of the Estates General.... Shall be scheduled for definite times....

In order to assure the third estate, the influence it deserves because of its numbers... its votes in the assembly should be taken by head...

Source E: An extract from a **historian's view on the National Assembly**, taken from a textbook printed in 2019.

The formation of the National Assembly was a direct challenge to the authority of the King, who was at last forced to act. On 23 June, he decided to hold a Royal Session, known as a seance royale, attended by all three Estates, when he would propose a series of reforms. On 20 June 1789 the deputies of the Third Estate found that the hall in which they met had been closed to prepare for the Royal Session. They had not been informed and were furious. They met instead on a tennis court nearby and took an oath, known as the Tennis Court Oath, not to disperse until they had given France a constitution.

Source Acknowledgements:

- Source A: Adapted from https://cdn5-ss5.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3013045/File/Crain/french_rev_dbq.pdf
- Source B: Adapted from https://cdn5-ss5.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3013045/File/Crain/french_rev_dbq.pdf
- Source C: Adapted from https://cdn5-ss5.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3013045/File/Crain/french_rev_dbq.pdf
- Source D: Dylan Rees and Duncan Townsend (2019). *Access to History - France in Revolution: 1774-1815*. Hodder Education p. 34.
- Source E: Dylan Rees and Duncan Townsend (2019). *Access to History - France in Revolution: 1774-1815*. Hodder Education p. 31.

Answer Scheme

Source Based Case Study

(a) Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer.

[5]

Level	Level Descriptors	Marks
1	Describing the source without making valid message	1
2	<p>Valid inference, unsupported/unexplained. <i>Award 3 marks for two valid inferences identified or for more developed description of inference.</i></p> <p>This message of this source is to highlight that that there were deep inequality in France society</p> <p>This message of this source is to show that in the taxation system</p>	2
3	<p>Valid sub-message identified, supported with evidence OR explanation.</p> <p>This message of this source is to highlight that that there were deep inequality in France society and in the taxation system. While the First and Second estates constitutes a mere 2% of the French population, they owned more than 35% of the land. While the Third estate was 98% of the population, but they merely controlled 65% of the land. Only the Third estate was taxed, while the richest First and Second estates did not pay any taxes.</p>	3
4	<p>Valid message, fully explained, with use of source details as support. <i>Award 4 marks for partially developed answers, explained with source details AND historical context.</i> <i>Award 5 marks for fully developed answers, explained with source details AND historical context.</i></p> <p>This message of this source is to highlight that that there was deep inequality in France society and in the taxation system.</p> <p>THIS ANSWER IS FOR SOCIAL INEQUALITY -While the First and Second estates constitute a mere 2% of the French population, they owned more than 35% of the land. The Third estate was 98% of the population, but they merely controlled 65% of the land.</p>	4-5

	<p>In other words, by simple extrapolation, on average, each member of the First and Second estate was around 25 times wealthier than each member of the Third estate.</p> <p>THIS ANSWER IS ON UNFAIR TAXATION</p> <p>On top of the huge inequality, the taxation system was also completely unfair. Only the Third estate was taxed, while the richest First and Second estates did not pay any taxes. In other words, not were the poor in pre-1789 barely surviving, they had to bear the burden alone. This unfair system was not sustainable in the long run. The poor quickly revolted as the situation was not addressed quickly in 1789. Hence, great inequality in wealth and taxation was an important cause of the French Revolution. (5m)</p> <p>FROM MY CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>The inability of the French peasantry and workers to tide over poor harvests and natural disasters became more and more pronounced during the latter half of the 18th century.</p> <p>E.g. After the harsh winter of 1788, cost of daily bread soared to more than half of average daily wages in Paris and this led to several bread riots in the city. John Adams even described the French countryside as a heap of ashes in 1775. This was when the French nobility and higher clergy continued to be extravagant. The wealthy were insensitive in flaunting their wealth, eg Queen Marie Antoinette's infamous spending on jewellery, parties & dresses. (4m)</p>	
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b) Study Source B and C.

How similar are the 2 sources in explaining the outbreak of the French Revolution?
Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Level Descriptors	Marks
L1	<p>Describes the source(s), with no interpretation, or comparison OR Provenance/Source Type only</p> <p>E.g. Source B talks about the French Revolution. Source C is about Paris in 1788-89.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The sources are different because one is a primary and the other is a secondary source.</p>	1
L2	<p>Identify similarity and/or difference, without evidence and/or explanation.</p> <p>E.g. The sources are similar in showing that the unhappy French people wanted a change of government through a revolution .</p>	2

	OR The sources are different in their accounts of how the French revolution came about.	
L3	<p>Similarity OR Difference based on content/message, explained and supported with evidence.</p> <p>E.g. <u>SIMILAR ABOUT THE SUFFERING OF THE POOR</u></p> <p>The sources are similar in showing that the French people were indeed suffering greatly in the period before the French Revolution. Comte D'Antraigues in Source B revealed that the people of France had been suffering for a long time. This is likely due to the great inequality and unfair taxation system that placed the Third estate under great duress especially during times of poor harvests when they struggle just to survive. Similarly in Source C, the paragraph exactly describes the struggle of the urban poor in 1788-89 when they struggle even to afford their basic needs such as food. For example, in source C, daily bread alone would cost 88% of daily wages on just bread, leaving them little for other basic necessities such as shelter and clothes. Similarly, Source C also tells us that extreme poverty had weakened the support for King Louis XVI. The Source tells us that there was "hardship and unrest amongst the Parisian population". The "riot was more a violent protest against the scarcity and high price of bread." This shows us that social and political discontent eventually led to the revolution which transformed the political system from Monarchy to the Republic.</p> <p>DIFFERENT ABOUT THE CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION</p> <p>The sources are different in their accounts of what the main cause of the French Revolution was. Source B was adamant that the French Revolution was the direct result of the American Revolution. Comte D'Antraigues stated that "the spark that changed thought into action was supplied by the Declaration of American Independence and that this caused the Revolution to break out." To the Comte, the American Revolution was the key factor that directly caused the outbreak of the French Revolution.</p> <p>Source C however suggested that the suffering of the people had progressively and steadily worsened from 1788 to 1789. The price of bread for example had risen from 9 to 14 sous and by spring 1789, the people in Paris could spend up to 88% of daily wages on bread only. This was a situation of a bad situation spiralling out of control even for the long-suffering people of France. Many became rioters angered by any slight rumours that their life could even become harder, as illustrated by the example of Reveillon in source. Hence, unlike source B, source C suggested that the main cause was the increasing severity of the people's hardships just before the 1789 French Revolution.</p>	3-4
L4	<p>Similarity AND Difference based on content/message identified, supported and explained.</p> <p><i>Both sides of L3</i></p>	5
L5	Difference based on tone/purpose identified, supported and explained.	5-6

	<p><i>Award 6 marks for fully developed answer that uses contextual knowledge to explain sources.</i></p> <p>Difference based on TONE e.g. Both sources differ in their intention for discussing what the main cause of the French Revolution was.</p> <p>BOTH SOURCES ARE SIMILAR IN TONE: Source B is negative as it tells there was hardship faced by the people. Source B starts that, "the suffering of the people was not greater than they had been before ..." This means that the people had been suffering for a long time. Similarly, Source C is also negative as it talks about the "hardship and unrest amongst the Parisian people." This means that the commoners suffered badly under King Louis XVI. Both sources tell us that the unhappiness of the people due to hardship and suffering, led to the outbreak of the French Revolution.</p> <p>DIFFERENCE IN INTENTION OF THE SOURCE (NOT A STRONG PURPOSE)</p> <p>Source B is an extract from a pro-monarchy nobleman who went into exile after the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789. As a pro-monarchy supporter, he wants to persuade the French people to support the Monarchy by saying that the revolution was from an external source ie the American War of Independence which inspired the people to rise up against the King.</p> <p>It is likely that he would be concerned about King Louis XVI and the Monarchy system. Louis XVI was the mercy of the French revolutionaries from 1789 to 1793 before he was executed. By conveying the message that the King did not make things worse to the French public, he aims to heighten the chance for his survival and win French public support to retain the monarchy in some form or another.</p> <p>On the other hand, source C as a more neutral source written by a historian for a recent textbook, likely meant to educate students on the causes of the French Revolution. This source pointed out that bread prices soared in Paris after the harsh winter of 1788 and there is likely no strong political force at work to arm-twist the author nearly 200 years after the French Revolution and thus its aims were to point out the disastrous results of the decisions made by and governance of Louis XVI, and disguise it under a façade like in source C. (6m)</p>	
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(c) Study Source D.

How useful is this source to a historian studying the causes of the French Revolution? Explain your answer. [7]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	<p>Useful/Limited in Usefulness, based on unexplained provenance only.</p> <p>E.g. The source is useful because they were comments made by the people of France in 1789.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The source is limited in usefulness because it is biased as it is from a Third Estate perspective.</p>	1
L2	<p>Useful and/or Limited in Usefulness, unsupported. <i>Award 2 marks for one or both sides</i></p> <p>Eg. Source D is useful in identifying the key problems faced by the King's government that the government were unable to resolve competently. AND/OR</p> <p>However, Source D is limited in usefulness as it didn't not point out other relevant factors such as the King's role in sparking the Tennis Court Oath and that of the Enlightenment and the American revolution.</p>	2
L3	<p>Useful and/or Limited in Usefulness, explained and supported using source content, not supported with cross-reference. <i>Award 4 marks for both sides</i></p> <p>Eg. Source D is useful in identifying the key problems faced by the King's government that the government were unable to resolve competently. It were these consequences of these problems that pushed the people of France into open revolution. Source D, as a list of grievances, collated in the Spring of 1789 for the Estates-General was a vital primary source that summarised key issues such as the tyranny of the absolute monarchy, overly high and unfair taxation of the Third Estate and the need for just and equal representation in the French government for all estates and people of France.</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>However, Source D is limited in usefulness as it didn't not point out other relevant factors such as the King's role in sparking the Tennis Court Oath and that of the Enlightenment and the American revolution. The Source merely states that that the people wanted a fairer taxation system and representation in government.</p>	3-4
L4	<p>L3 + Useful AND/OR Limited in Usefulness, based on source content, supported with Cross-reference</p>	4-5

	<p><i>Award 5 marks for both sides</i></p> <p>E.g. Source D is useful in identifying the key problems faced by the King's government that the government were unable to resolve competently. It were these consequences of these problems that pushed the people of France into open revolution. Source D, as a list of grievances, collated in the Spring of 1789 for the Estates-General was a vital primary source that summarised key issues such as the tyranny of the absolute monarchy, overly high and unfair taxation of the Third Estate and the need for just and equal representation in the French government for all estates and people of France. This source accurately revealed the depth and scope of the key frustrations of the people of France. This is supported by Source A and C. Source A shows that while the rich pay no taxes, the poorest Third Estate bore all the taxation and the result was poverty and hardship that was apparent in Source C. Source D thus was useful in showing that King Louis XVI's incompetence and the great inequality of pre-1789 France were vital factors behind the outbreak of the French Revolution</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>However, Source D is limited in usefulness as it didn't not point out other relevant factors such as the King's role in sparking the Tennis Court Oath and that of the Enlightenment and the American revolution. For example, in Source B, the testament of the Comte was a good primary source to highlight the significance of the American Revolution as an inspiration to the French revolutionaries. And in Source E, an important trigger of the French revolution that was King Louis' decision to close the hall for the seance royale without telling the Estates General, unwittingly set off a series of events that started with Tennis Court Oath and ended in the French Revolution.</p>	
L5	<p>L4+ Limited in Usefulness based on critical analysis (reliability) of the provenance <i>Award 5 marks for answers that use contextual knowledge. (one side L4) +</i> <i>Award 6 marks for more developed answers that use contextual knowledge. (Both sides L4) +</i></p> <p>L4+ Source D was a vital primary source as it was a list of grievances of all the people of France (First to Third Estates), collated in the Spring of 1789 for the Estates-General. It was meant to be presented in the Estates-General so that King Louis XVI could hear the truth and resolve the numerous problems plaguing them. There was thus little incentive or motive for the people to hide the reality or making the problems less serious than they were from the King. Hence, this source</p>	5-6

	<p>is largely reliable, and hence very useful in showing that that deep-rooted problems, such as the tyranny of the absolute monarchy, overly high and unfair taxation of the Third Estate and the need for just and equal representation in the French government for all estates and people of France, essentially were responsible for the deep anger and disappointment at the French Monarchy and thus for the outbreak of the French Revolution. Even though not all factors were captured in Source D, the main reasons were essentially captured accurately. Hence D indeed remained a key source for understanding the causes of the French Revolution. (6m)</p>	
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