



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate  
Principal Subject

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**HISTORY**

**9769/56**

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

**May/June 2011**

**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.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

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

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

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.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



**Answer the following question.**

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

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

- A** *Louis XVI's Controller-General of Finances in the years 1787–88 recalls his decision that the Estates-General should be recalled without delay.*

I came to a decision: 'We must think no more of delaying the Estates-General'. I had already made preparations for holding the Estates. I will go further, lest there remain any doubt concerning my sincere wish to hold the Estates in the month of May following. Concerning the manner in which they should be assembled, I had requested information from the provincial assemblies who, composed as I desired the Estates to be, would vote as I wanted them to vote. From this it is clear that my preference was for a double representation for the Third Estate and voting by head.

Archbishop de Loménie de Brienne, *Memoirs*, published in 1801.

- B** *High ranking members of the French royal family express their concerns about proposed reforms.*

Sire, the state is in peril. A revolution is being prepared in the principles of government. Institutions which were considered sacred have been put into question; opinion is divided over the rights of the clergy and the nobility; soon the rights of property will be attacked; inequality of wealth will be represented as something which needs to be reformed; already it has been proposed that feudal dues be abolished. Derived from these new theories, several sections of the Third Estate claim that their order should have two votes in the Estates-General whilst each of the two leading orders continue to have only one. It has been demonstrated to Your Majesty how important it is to preserve the only method of assembling the Estates which is constitutional, the mode sanctioned by law and custom: namely the distinction between the orders, the right to deliberate in separate chambers.

Memorandum of the Princes of the Blood, 12 December 1788.

- C** *A royal minister and a leading member of the 'aristocratic faction' gives an account of a meeting of the King with a group of advisers.*

His Majesty made frequent observations but it was impossible to divine his opinion. M. Necker and M. de Montmorin cunningly devised fresh arguments, returning to the wrongs they attributed to the clergy and the nobility at the time of the edicts of 8 May and contrasting their behaviour with the obedience of the people. Past experience was sufficient guide to the future; royal authority had everything to fear from two powerful orders and everything to gain from uniting with the people; these ideas were calculated to have a powerful effect on the minds of the King and Queen and fed the prejudices of both against the clergy and the nobility.

Charles de Paule de Barentin, December 1788.

**D** *Louis XVI's finance minister records his thoughts on the King's willingness to reform.*

Sire, as you have told the ministers honoured with your confidence, you intend not only to carry out your promise not to impose any new taxes without the consent of the Estates-General of your kingdom but also not to extend the life of any existing tax except with this consent. You further desire to guarantee the periodic return of the Estates-General. Your Majesty also wants to prevent the havoc which the incompetence of his ministers could wreak in royal finances. You intend, Sire, to work out with the Estates-General the best ways of achieving this aim. Your Majesty, wishing to contribute to the public good, intends to meet the entirely legitimate demands of his subjects. You are also keen to hear the views of the Estates-General on the degree of freedom to grant to the press and on the publication of books.

Jacques Necker, notes attached to the Resultat du Conseil, 27 December 1788.

**E** *A modern historian assesses the problems facing France in 1788.*

Not until Brienne and Lamoignon had fallen from power did the public turn its attention seriously to the question of the form of the Estates-General. These ministers were brought down by what every measure introduced by successive ministers over the preceding eighteen months had been intended to avoid – bankruptcy. The confident calculations of Brienne took no account of the fiscal chaos and tax-arrears. And on 13 July a colossal hail storm destroyed much of the harvest in the Paris basin. This, and bad weather elsewhere in the country, meant that peasants would have difficulty meeting tax demands in 1789. The long-dreaded bankruptcy had at last arrived. Brienne recognised that only one man now enjoyed the credit, prestige, and seemingly flawless public record to restore calm: Necker. His last act as principal minister was to persuade a reluctant king to recall Necker, who made it clear from the start that he regarded himself as little more than a caretaker until the Estates-General met. The bankruptcy of the monarchy was therefore not only financial, but political and intellectual, too. It had collapsed in every sense, leaving an enormous vacuum of power.

William Doyle, *The Oxford History of the French Revolution*, published in 1989.

- (a) How far, and why, do the opinions expressed in Documents A and B concerning the impending Estates-General differ? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the Revolution of July 1789 was chiefly the outcome of irreconcilable disagreements between the three Estates? [20]

In making your evaluation you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all documents in this set (A–E). [20]

**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 To what extent was Louis XVI personally responsible for the fall of the monarchy in August 1792? [30]
- 3 Why did the revolutionary governments in Paris face such serious opposition in the provinces? [30]
- 4 How are the extreme policies of the Terror best explained? [30]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Question 1 Document E

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