

FRANCE: ANCIEN REGIME TO NAPOLEON c.1715-1815

THEME 1: French society and economy in transition, c.1715-1815

PART 1 - Chronology chart

This is a suggested timeline for the theme covering French society and economy in transition, c.1715-1815. The content coverage is derived from the specification.

1715-1789: The Ancien Regime	1789-1799: Revolutionary France	1799-1815: Consulate to Empire
The Three Estates: noble privilege; peasant obligations; power of the Church	The people as citizens	Social change under Napoleon
Changes in the economy from mercantilism to capitalism	The position of the emigre	Economic change under Napoleon
Problems of finance and taxation	The influence of the sans-culottes	
The impact of the Enlightenment	Changing relationship between Church and State	
The growth of the bourgeoisie	The impact of the revolution on the economy	

PART 2 - a conceptual guide

This provides a conceptual guide for the theme of French society and economy in transition, c.1715-1815 which attempts to demonstrate how each concept underpins the period, how concepts are linked and the significance of these concepts. The aim is not to focus on the content of events but to provide appropriate guidance regarding historical concepts as appropriate.

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	1715-1789: the ancien regime	1789-1799: Revolutionary France	1799-1815 Consulate to Empire
Cause and Consequence	The financial reforms of John Law, 1715-20 The financial reforms of Calonne, 1786	The Night of 4th August, 1789 The Oath to the Civil Constitution, 1791	The Concordat, 1801
Significant individuals	Voltaire Calonne	Jacques Necker Gracchus Babeuf	Charles Gaudin
Turning points	The Collapse of the Mississippi Company, 1720 The <i>Compte Rendu</i> , 1781 Declaration of bankruptcy, 1788	Nationalisation of Church land, 1789 The Civil Constitution of the clergy 1791	The Bank of France, 1800
Key Terminology associated with the theme	Mercantalism <i>Ancien Régime</i>	Feudalism <i>Assignat</i>	Continental System
Similarity and Difference <i>Comparison during a sub-period and even over the whole period can feature</i>	The status and position of the peasantry 1789-1815	The nature and composition of the <i>émigrés</i> The changing nature of the <i>sans-culottes</i>	Changes in society under Napoleon
Change and Continuity <i>Teachers should address how far and how quickly these issues changed over the whole period</i>	The changing status of the Catholic Church 1715-1815 The changing status of the nobility 1715-1815 The nature of French society 1715-1815		

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CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

The financial reforms of John Law, 1715-1720	Centres will need to focus on the crisis in French finances evident after the death of Louis XIV – the consequence of his many wars. The Regency of Orleans needed to take measures bring stability to these finances. Law's proposals - creating a national bank, stimulating trade and Industry - foundered when the Mississippi Company prompted a financial bubble to emerge. The consequence of the policy was financial collapse and a return to chaos. The problem of finance was to remain a major issue for the rest of the century culminating in the bankruptcy of the 1780s.
The financial reforms of Calonne, 1786	Centres should focus on the causes and extent of the financial crisis facing France in the late 1780s. This context will enable centres to analyse the reform proposals made by Calonne to ameliorate this situation. Calonne and Louis needed to secure a measure of national acquiescence before implementing the reforms. There preferred method was to summon a hand-picked assembly of Notables. The consequence of the failure of this policy led to the summoning of the Estates General.
The Night of 4th August, 1789	Centres will focus on the concerns and aspirations of the peasants during the ancien régime. Centres will evaluate the events of the Night of 4th August and their impact on feudalism and the peasantry. The consequence of these events marked a dramatic move against the ancien régime and the implied ending of feudalism. The economic consequences were rather less obvious in the short term but in the longer term were part of a process which enhanced the position of the peasantry
The Oath to the Civil Constitution, 1791	Centres will need to focus on the context in which this reform was introduced. The role of the Catholic church in France will need to be examined and also the reasons for the hostility towards it by certain revolutionaries. Centres will emphasise the consequences of the oath in compelling the French clergy to effectively declare themselves either for or against the revolution. The refractory priests who refused to take the oath helped boost support for the counter-revolution. This can be linked with the changes in church-state relations introduced by Napoleon.
The Concordat, 1801	Centres will need to focus on the way in which the Catholic Church had been treated since 1789 and how this had effectively been separated from the state by 1795. Centres will highlight why Napoleon decided to reverse this policy and agree the Concordat with the Pope Pius VII. The main consequence of this action was to effectively restore the Catholic Church to its most favoured position and reestablish the close link between church and state.

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SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Voltaire	Centres will need to focus on the way in which the philosopher Voltaire through his contribution to the French Enlightenment was able to influence bourgeois opinion during the <i>ancien régime</i> . Centres will emphasise the contribution which Voltaire made as a leading <i>philosophe</i> in helping to establish a range of influential ideas and positions such as his attacks on the Catholic Church, his staunch support for freedom of religion, freedom of expression and the separation of church and state.
Calonne	Centres will need to focus on how and why Calonne - who was appointed Controller General of Finances in 1783 - attempted to reform the chaotic finances of the crown. Centres should highlight the ambitious reform plans which he introduced in 1786-1787 – noting how these aimed to deal with the deficit and ensure adequate revenue for the government. These foundered as a result of the combined opposition of the Nobility and the <i>parlement</i> .
Jacques Necker	Centres should focus on the contribution he made to French finances during the closing years of the <i>ancien régime</i> . Centres should stress Necker's great talent for raising loans instead of imposing taxes, to pay for expenditure. His <i>compte rendu</i> suggested a surplus in royal finances when in fact there was a very large deficit. He was popular because he sanctioned spending without taxing.
Gracchus Babeuf	Centres should consider the Doctrine of Babeuf and the Conspiracy of Equals in 1796. Centres will consider carefully the role of Babeuf in making a number of significant demands to improve living and working conditions for the mass of the population. His treatment following the Conspiracy of Equals will indicate the extent to which the Directory were prepared to go to contain the masses and preserve the social and economic position of the bourgeoisie.
Charles Gaudin	Centres will need to consider the contribution of Gaudin in bringing about a measure of financial stability to France during the Napoleonic era. Centres will focus on his role in helping to bring about the creation of the Bank of France and the impact which that had. His financial contribution in a wider context will also need to be considered by centres.

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TURNING POINTS

The collapse of the Mississippi Company, 1720	Centres should focus on the financial policies of John Law and his scheme to create the Mississippi Company. Centres would need to examine carefully how the speculative bubble emerged and explore the consequences for the economy when this burst in 1720. Under Fleury the recovery had slowly emerged and sound finance gave way to the speculation of the Law years. The impact of this on the French economy should be noted.
The Compte Rendu, 1781	Centres should focus on the context of France's financial position in the late 1770s and concerns about how involvement in the American War of Independence was being financed. According to the <i>Compte Rendu</i> which Necker published in February 1781 there was a surplus of 10 million livre in government finances. This figure alleviated concerns about the precarious nature of royal finances and allowed Necker to continue borrowing to fund expenditure. The inaccuracy of the <i>Compte Rendu</i> hastened the bankruptcy of the state and therefore was a crucial turning point in the 1780s.
Declaration of bankruptcy, 1788	Centres should focus on the chronic shortage of government revenue and the rising cost of credit following the ending of the American War of independence (1783). Centres should examine the consequence of the declaration and place this with the context of the need to reform finances. The declaration put in sharp focus the urgent need to bring about changes to the tax structure, which in turn further widened the debate about the financial privileges and exemptions of the first two estates. This was a critical turning point because the government was in essence unable to function financially.
Nationalisation of Church land, 1789	Centres should focus on the motivation behind the decision taken by the National Assembly in to take into state control all the land belonging to the Catholic Church in France. Centres should point out the chronic shortage of revenue available to the government. This was a turning point as it was the first direct assault on the church and suggested future attacks.
The Civil Constitution of the Clergy, 1791	Centres should focus on why the National Assembly decided to introduce the Civil Constitution of the Clergy. This was a turning point because loyalty to the Revolution was placed under great strain and the consequences of this were considerable, particularly in supporting the emergence of a counter-revolution.
The Bank of France, 1800	Centres should focus on the circumstances surrounding the creation of the Bank of France in 1800. The chaos of the Directory and the virtual collapse of the <i>assignat</i> prompted the call for greater stability. This was a turning point as the bank as the sole institution allowed to issue notes brought a measure of credibility to the financial structure.

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KEY TERMINOLOGY

Mercantilism	Centres should focus on the nature of this policy as the economic counterweight to political absolutism. With such a policy, which France followed during the reign of Louis XV the governments passed laws which had the effect of regulating economic activity. Centres should highlight the fact that the acquisition of colonies for purely monopolistic trading practices was a key feature of mercantilism.
Ancien Régime	Centres should focus on the 'Old Order' – France before the Revolution of 1789. Centres will need to provide insight into the structure of the state before 1789 and cover such features as the Estates of the Realm – noting their particular status and relationship with the crown and each other. The concept of absolute government will also need to be examined as part of the <i>ancien regime</i> .
Feudalism	Centres will need to focus on what feudalism implied in practice especially in the relationship between the peasantry and landowners in rural France. The nature of the restrictions imposed from rights and dues to the position of the serfs will need to be examined by centres. Centres should also consider the economic implication of this system in restricting the development of agriculture and rural industries.
Assignat	Centres will need to focus on how the assignat became the new paper currency of the revolutionary period. Following the nationalisation of church land in 1789 the government printed bonds – <i>biens nationaux</i> - representing the value of church property. These became accepted as means of settling debts and a <i>de facto</i> currency. The government could not resist printing increasing amounts of <i>assignat</i> more and more of these which led to inflation and undermined confidence in the new 'currency'. Its value continued to decline and a new currency - the franc Germinal was introduced by Napoleon in 1803.
Continental System	Centres will need to focus on Napoleon's policy of attempting to bring about the defeat of Britain by economic rather than military means. Centres will need to examine the detail of the continental system as a blockade measure and should highlight the anticipated outcome. The reality of the system in operation will also need to be considered carefully.

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SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE

The status and position of the peasantry 1789-1815	Centres should focus how far the status and position of the peasantry was similar or different over this period. They should consider the inherent conservatism of the French peasantry following the abolition of feudalism in 1789. For the majority farming practices underwent very little change and output was heavily reliant on manpower as opposed to mechanization. However the ending of feudalism and the opening up of opportunities to own land which the revolution presented, did imply a degree of change. The revolutionary period did challenge some of the core values held by the peasantry – obedience to the catholic church and the papacy and loyalty to the King.
The nature and composition of the <i>Émigrés</i>.	Centres should compare the ways in which the social composition of émigrés both changed and remained the same. The first wave of <i>émigrés</i> in the early years of the revolution comprised of wealthy nobles and members of the royal family. Centres should explain that as the revolution became more extreme priests and prominent members of the bourgeois and ordinary citizens joined the ranks of the <i>émigrés</i> . Former noblemen and their families continued to leave France. The outbreak of war in 1792 saw significant number of people flee from areas where fighting occurred – predominantly around the borders of France.
The changing nature of the <i>sans-culottes</i>	Centres should compare the ways in which the experience and influence of the <i>sans-culottes</i> both changed and remained the same. Centres should focus on how during the <i>ancien régime</i> the <i>sans-culottes</i> had very little economic or political power. As an economic group they were not prominent within the state. Yet from 1789 until 1795 they played a significant role in the life of urban France During the Directory their power and influences was dismantled in various ways so that their impact was in effect marginalised.
Changes in society under Napoleon	Centres should examine the range of social changes which occurred under Napoleon comparing them with previous regimes. Centres will note the re-emergence of the nobility, and with the creation of the legion of honour, awards and insignia were once again available. The Concordat restored the position of the Catholic Church and ended the separation of church and state. Centres however should emphasise that the rights of workers were restricted under Napoleon - trade unions were banned and the <i>livret</i> controlled the free movement of workers.

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CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

The changing status of the Catholic Church 1715-1815	<p>In order to consider issues of change and continuity in the status of the Church across the whole period, centres should examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how at the start of the period the Catholic church was the first estate and occupied the most privileged position in the realm• towards the end of the ancien régime the Catholic Church came under sustained attack from some of the philosophes• during the Revolution church and state were separated and it lost its privileged status• the Jacobin Republic saw a wave of anti-clericalism• under Napoleon the concordat indicated a rapprochement and Church and state were once again entwined.
The changing status of the nobility 1715-1815	<p>In order to consider issues of change and continuity in the status of the nobility across the whole period, centres should examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how at the start of the period the nobility was the second estate and occupied a very privileged position in France• the status of the nobility came under sustained attack from some of the philosophes during the eighteenth century• the nobility were perceived as an archaic and divisive social order during the final years of the ancien régime• the negative attitude towards them culminated in their abolition as part of the National Assembly's reform programme• after 1789 a number of noblemen fled the country and became emigres, a number of those who remained were executed during the Terror.• during the Napoleonic period, Napoleon re-created a new nobility as part of his programme of dispensing patronage

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The nature of French society 1715-1815

In order to consider issues of change and continuity in French society across the whole period, centres should examine:

- that the period 1715-1799 was the ancien regime which encompassed a rigid social structure of estates and obligations part of which were feudal in origin
- following the revolution of 1789, centres will explore the way in which the ancien regime was dismantled
- greater social mobility was evident – a key feature of the Napoleonic approach to ‘Careers open to the Talents
- in summary, centres may wish to consider how different society was in France in 1815 to that of 1715. Despite the upheaval of revolution, how much had changed?

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Part 3 Resources

Books			
Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Florin Aftalion	The French Revolution . An Economic Interpretation	Cambridge University Press	0521368103
P,M.Jones	The Peasantry and the French Revolution	Cambridge University Press	052133716X
Emmet Kennedy	A Cultural History of the French Revolution	Yale	0300050135
Nigel Aston	Religion and Revolution in France	Macmillan	0333583264
Richard Cobb	The Police and the People	Oxford University Press	0198812973
Alfred Cobban	The Social Interpretation of the French Revolution	Cambridge University Press	0521095484

AUDIO - VISUAL RESOURCES

Danton - Directed by Andrzej Wajda (1983) available as a DVD

Napoleon and the Siege of Toulon, 1793. BBC Heroes and Villains Series , 2007. Available as a DVD

Versailles the Palace of Pleasure. Louis XV. BBC Two, 2012

Terror! Robespierre and the French Revolution. BBC Two, 2009.

Marie Antoinette, Film 2006 Available on DVD

Internet sites

An online resource containing many primary sources and profiles of key revolutionary figures

Dr Mark Philip examines the relationship between Britain and the French Revolution

Official website of the Palace of Versailles. Useful detail , history and images

<https://www.marxists.org/history/france/revolution/>

www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire.../british_french_rev_01.shtml

en.chateauversailles.fr/

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THEME 2: Politics and government in France, c.1715-1815

PART 1 - Chronology chart

This is a suggested timeline for the theme covering politics and government in France, c.1715-1815. The content coverage is derived from the specification.

1715-1789: Absolute government	1789-1799: Revolutionary France	1799-1815: Imperial rule
Louis XV and the theory of absolutism	Louis XVI and the causes of revolution in France	The establishment of the Empire
The structure of the state and the role of the court	From monarchy to republic: the main developments	Administrative and government reforms
The reforms of Fleury	The Terror 1792-1795	The Napoleonic codes
Relations with the Church		The Concordat
War and its impact on France		The impact of war on France
Colonial rivalry		

PART 2 - a conceptual guide

This provides a conceptual guide for the theme of politics and government in France, c.1715-1815 which attempts to demonstrate how each concept underpins the period, how concepts are linked and the significance of these concepts. The aim is not to focus on the content of events but to provide appropriate guidance regarding historical concepts as appropriate.

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THEME 2: Politics and government in France, c.1715-1815

	1715-1789: Absolute government	1789-1799: Revolutionary France	1799-1815: Imperial rule
Cause and Consequence	The Seven Years War 1756-1763 The summoning of the Assembly of Notables, 1787	The Declaration of the National Assembly Creation of the Committee of Public Safety	The Prefectural System, 1800
Significant individuals	Cardinal Fleury Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès Maximilian Robespierre	Napoleon Bonaparte
Turning points	The Treaty of Paris, 1763 The Revolt of the Nobility, 1788.	The Flight to Varennes, 1791 The Revolutionary War, 1792	The retreat from Moscow, 1812
Key Terminology associated with the theme	Absolutism	Constitutional Monarchy Democratic Republicanism Counter-revolution	Nationalism
Similarity and Difference <i>Comparison during a sub-period and even over the whole period can feature</i>	The rule of the Bourbons 1715-1792 The political status of the bourgeoisie 1774-1815	The nature of government 1789-1815 The Revolution preserved and destroyed 1789-1815	The impact of war 1792-1815
Change and Continuity <i>Teachers should address how far and how quickly these issues changed over the whole period</i>	The nature of political leadership and control 1715-1815 Changing foreign and colonial policy 1715-1815 Dealing with political opposition 1715-1815		

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CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

The Seven Years War, 1756-1763	Centres should focus on the events which led France to become involved in the Seven Years War – part of the context was the Diplomatic Revolution and also of increasing colonial and mercantile rivalry with England. Centres should point out that the immediate result of the war as indicated in the Treaty of Paris (1763) was the loss of a significant part of the France's overseas colonial territories in North America and India. In the longer term there grew the desire of revenge which ultimately bankrupted the French state.
The summoning of the Assembly of Notables, 1787	Centres should focus on the reasons why the Assembly of Notables was summoned and link this in with the aim of securing financial reforms and stabilizing government finances. Centres should emphasise that Louis hoped to avoid calling the Estates General for the first time since 1614. The Assembly rejected Louis' reform proposals: the consequence was the revolt of the nobility and the decision to summon an Estates General.
The summoning of the Assembly of Notables, 1787	Centres should focus on the political background to the declaration by the Third Estate that they were to be a National Assembly and then extend an invitation for the other two estates to join them. This bold initiative caught the crown and the government unawares and left the Third Estate with the popular support. Centres should note that the main consequence of this action was that Louis instructed the other orders to join them. The consequence of the establishment of the National Assembly was a bold programme of reform which transformed France irrevocably.
The creation of the Committee of Public Safety, 1793.	Centres will need to consider the political and military context behind the formation of the CPS in the spring of 1793. Its emergence was due to the crisis confronting the Republic. Centres should point out that the result of the formation of the CPS was not only a sharp lurch to the political left under the Jacobin but the emergence of a highly centralized government determined to preserve the gains of the revolution by whatever means it deemed necessary.
The Prefectural System, 1800	Centres will need to consider that this system was introduced to facilitate the administration of government in the new Departments of France. Centres will need to point out that the consequence of this measure was that Prefects became agents of direct state control. This was a system which had some vestiges of the intendents used during the ancien régime.

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SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Cardinal Fleury	Centres should focus on how Fleury helped stabilise French finances following the disastrous policies of the Regency and restored fiscal order. In addition he set about to improve roads and commerce. Centres should also point out that his period in power was divisive and that his inclination in foreign policy was to avoid expensive entanglements. His policy of cost-cutting did leave France ill-prepared when conflict arose.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Centres should focus on the role occupied by Rousseau as one of the key philosophes. His contribution to the French Enlightenment and his impact particularly on the bourgeoisie needs to be emphasised. Centres should point out that his belief in popular sovereignty became ultimately a core aspect of democratic republicanism. The influence of Rousseau was long term in helping to inspire the bourgeois and less privileged members of the Third Estate to seek political change.
Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès	Centres should focus on the impact and significance of the role that Sieyès played in helping to formulate Constitutions in 1789-1791 and 1799 and the impact that his pamphlet had in bringing about the Revolution, Centres should point out his role in championing the rights of the Third Estate
Maximilian Robespierre	Centres should focus on the significance of the role that Robespierre played in establishing the Republic subsequently during the Terror. Centres should point out that the methods adopted by Robespierre during the Terror did not meet with universal approval and that opponents accused him of amassing power and personal influence.
Napoleon Bonaparte	Centres should focus on the way in which Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power during the 1790s as the most able of the Republic's young generals and how he came to seize power in 1799. Centres should point out how he preserved certain aspects of the revolution but on the other hand instituted changes which appeared to suggest a return to monarchy.

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TURNING POINTS

The Treaty of Paris, 1763	Centres should focus on the impact which the Seven Years' War had on France. They should consider the economic impact (both cost of the war and loss of trade) and the political impact especially loss of prestige. Centres should point out that the loss of the much of Frances' overseas empire was both deeply humiliating and a great financial burden. This was a turning point because in the longer term the consequence was to bring about involvement in the American War as France sought revenge on Britain and bankruptcy of the state.
The Revolt of the Nobility, 1788.	Centres should focus on the motives behind the revolt of the nobility, 1788. Once the Assembly of Notables met in 1787 it was clear that the financial crisis facing the country was deep. This was a significant moment: one where Louis hoped to gain financial reforms without recourse to the Estates General. Centres need to point out that the rejection of his terms and that the revolt of the nobility was a turning point as it brought Louis into conflict with the privileged orders who ought to have been his natural allies.
The flight to Varennes, 1791	Centres should focus on the context behind Louis' decision to flee from France in June 1791. Louis' growing disillusionment with the direction of the Revolution allied with his dislike of the proposed new constitution prompted his decision to leave France. Following Louis' capture at Varennes and his return to Paris his views became widely known. The Flight proved to be a turning point as it divided opinion on Louis, brought into question the whole concept of constitutional monarchy and hastened the setting up of the First Republic.
The Revolutionary War, 1792	The decision to go to war in the spring of 1792 was almost universally welcomed. As initial success turned to disaster the gains made during the revolution were threatened. The war, and the climate of fear and suspicion which it generated, proved to be a turning point in the revolution in that it contributed in the short term to the overthrow of Louis XVI and his subsequent execution, and in the longer term to the rise of Napoleon.

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The retreat from Moscow, 1812

The decision to invade Russia in the summer of 1812 proved to be one of the great turning points of the Napoleonic era. A vast French army invaded Russia in June 1812 with the expectation of inflicting a swift defeat on the Russians. The battle of Borodino and the subsequent pyrrhic occupation of Moscow just before the onset of a severe Russian winter presaged a disastrous retreat during which the Russian effectively destroyed the Grand Army of France. This was a clear turning point because the scale of Napoleon's defeat encouraged his enemies to renew their war against him.

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KEY TERMINOLOGY

Absolutism	Centres should focus on the concept of absolutism and what it implied during the ancien régime (1715-1789). Candidates should be aware of how absolutism differed between the theory and reality of politics in France in this period.
Constitutional Monarchy	Centres should focus on what constitutional monarchy meant and how it was to be applied in practice in France after 1789. Central to this understanding will be a consideration of the Constitution of 1791 with its various procedures and mechanisms to ensure that only the bourgeoisie had any real role in governing the country.
Democratic Republicanism	Centres should focus on what democratic republicanism implied in theory and how this was applied to the reality of the situation in France following the overthrow of the monarchy in August 1792. Some consideration of the ideas of Rousseau and his theory of popular sovereignty would offer valuable context to this and tie it in with the impact of the ideas of the philosophes of the French enlightenment. Linking republicanism with the American Revolution and the influential views of Tom Paine would also be useful.
Counter-revolution	In the wake of the decline in Royal authority and attempts to wrest power from Louis XVI, there grew in stages a counter-revolution in France. The first wave of emigres who left France following the storming of the Bastille gradually formed disparate groups of opposition in the territories bordering France. Within France they assumed greater impact as the revolution moved further to the left.
Nationalism	Nationalism emerged as a powerful force during the Revolutionary period and assumed even greater impact during the Napoleonic era. As French forces went on the offensive during the Revolutionary War, the initial ideal of liberating oppressed people and offering them the benefits of liberty, equality and fraternity, soon became replaced by conquest. This gave rise to nationalist and patriotic sentiments against French hegemony as seen in Spain and Germany. Ultimately these forces contributed to his downfall.

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SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE

The rule of the Bourbons, 1715-1792	Centres should focus on how there were similarities in the ways that the two Bourbon rulers governed and in the issues which confronted them including delegation of power, financial problems and wars. Centres should also consider the differences in their personalities, leadership styles and the extent of desire to achieve reform.
The political status of the bourgeoisie, 1774-1815	Centres should focus on understanding how the position and status of the bourgeoisie remained the same but also differed over the period. This dynamic and enterprising group had no political status under the ancien régime yet their sense of frustration was a force for change as the crisis of the monarchy unfolded. After 1789 the bourgeoisie became a dominant force in French politics and centres will need to focus on this,
The nature of government, 1789-1815	Centres should focus on the nature of government across the period 1789-1815 noting how it changed as the revolution became more extreme. Moderate opinion was replaced by extremism and political figures across the period were in essence drawn from the upper ranks of the bourgeoisie. Under Napoleon executive government was largely in his hands - a situation similar to that of the ancien régime.
The Revolution preserved and destroyed, 1789- 1815	Centres should focus on the gains which were achieved during the revolutionary period and emphasise the extent to which these were preserved. Centres should weigh up gains such as equality before the law against restriction in the democratic ideals that drove many of the revolutionaries of 1789. An examination of the preservation of such gains should be measured against what Napoleon did to them during the Consulate and then the Empire.
The impact of war, 1792-1815	Centres will need to focus on the impact and the experience of the two wars (Revolutionary and Napoleonic) that affected France across the period 1792-1815, noting how there were similarities - high death toll, economic impact - but also differences including defending the Republic to wars of conquest with imperialistic motives.

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CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

The nature of political leadership and control, 1715-1815	<p>Centres should focus on how political life changed from the ancien régime through the revolutionary era and down to Napoleon. In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• that the leading political figures initially were drawn from the first two privileged orders• the rise of the bourgeoisie towards the end of the ancien régime saw the emergence of a new elite• the sans-culottes played a significant but short part in influencing political leadership c.1789 - 1795• Napoleon's Prefectural System ushered in a new type of career politician loyal to the state and not dependent on patronage for appointment.• the vast majority of the population across the entire period played only a minimal role in French political life
Changing foreign policy, 1715-1815	<p>Centres should focus on how the prevailing motive in French foreign policy was to secure natural frontiers that would ensure the security of the state. The benefit of acquiring overseas territories also needs to be explored. Centres should also note that during the period 1792-1815 several wars of conquest were embarked on which had the aim of enriching the exchequer as well as protecting revolutionary gains. The impact on France's government of the series of wars fought over the period should also be considered. Centres should also examine the reverses which France suffered under the Bourbons and how this had an impact on the status and power of the monarchy. The impact of war in the Revolutionary period should be considered especially on its weakening of the Directory. The role of war in promoting the claims of Napoleon and ultimately its role in his downfall should be explored.</p>

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Dealing with political opposition, 1715-1815

Centres will need to focus on how political opposition was dealt with across the period. In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine:

- During the ancien régime very little opposition was tolerated and successive governments used quasi-legal and legal means to suppress it
- from the mid 1780s opposition grew and as the revolution gained momentum political factions emerged, clubs
- From 1793 opposition was stifled – during the Terror by fear of denouncement, and by the purges instituted by the Directory
- Governments through to Napoleon used various means to deal with opponents who in turn were reduced to more covert and violent activities.

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Part 3 Resources

Books

Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Colin Jones	The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon, 1715–99	Penguin	9780140130935
John Hardman	French Politics 1774-1789	Longman	0582236495
William Doyle	The Oxford History of the French Revolution	Oxford University Press	01928852213
Albert Soboul	The French Revolution 1787-1799	Unwin Hyman	0044453817
Dylan Rees	France in Revolution (5th Ed)	Hodder Education	9781471839009
David Andress	The Terror. Civil War in the French Revolution	Abacus	0349115885
Peter McPhee	Robespierre. A Revolutionary Life	Yale	9780300118117
Philip Dwyer	Napoleon in Power: 1799-1815	Bloomsbury	9780747578086
Michel Broers	Napoleon. Soldier of Destiny	Faber & Faber	9780571273430
Charles Esdaile	Napoleons Wars	Penguin	9780141014203

Audio - Visual resources

Danton - Directed by Andrzej Wajda (1983) available as a DVD

Napoleon and the Siege of Toulon, 1793. BBC Heroes and Villains Series , 2007. Available as a DVD

Versailles the Palace of Pleasure. Louis XV. BBC Two, 2012

Terror! Robespierre and the French Revolution. BBC Two, 2009.

Marie Antoinette, Film 2006 Available on DVD

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Internet sites

<https://www.marxists.org/history/france/revolution/> - An online resource containing many primary sources and profiles of key revolutionary figures

www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire.../british_french_rev_01.shtml - Dr Mark Philip examines the relationship between Britain and the French Revolution

en.chateauversailles.fr/ - Official website of the Palace of Versailles. Useful detail , history and images