

Most of you will not have studied the French Revolution or the British Revolutions of the C17th in any depth, but we hope that like us, you will find the topics absorbing and intriguing. We've assembled a few tasks to help you start to connect with the period and people we will study in the 6th form.

Head of Dept, Hugh Castle [hcastle@lrgs.org.uk]

Revolutions.

French History

Resources and links...

You need to purchase your own copy of this textbook: **Revolutions in Europe: Edexcel AS/A Level History, Paper 1&2:** Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe Student Book + Active Book (Edexcel GCE History 2015) by Alan White:

<https://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/secondary/subjects/history-secondary/edexcel-a-level-history-from-2015/edexcel-asa-level-history-paper-12-revolutions-in-early-modern-and-modern-europe-activebook-1>

Log in to the Historical Association: <https://www.history.org.uk/>

Student username: LRGS

Password: student123

Links to podcasts and articles https://www.history.org.uk/site/search_results?st=french+revolution

Brilliant site for exploring the Revolution: <https://revolution.chnm.org/>

Alpha history: useful website <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/french-revolution-documents/>

Introductory reading:

[French Revolution - A Very Short Introduction by William Doyle \(z-lib.org\).pdf](#)

[The French Revolution 1787-1804 by P. M. Jones \(z-lib.org\).pdf](#)

[The Oxford history of the French Revolution by William Doyle \(z-lib.org\).pdf](#)

Historical Fiction: Great for getting an atmosphere of the period and key characters. [A Place of Greater Safety by Hilary Mantel \(z-lib.org\).pdf](#)

The following tasks are compulsory.

You are to investigate this overarching question: Why Revolution not Reform?

1. What is a revolution? Use the links above then draw a diagram to explain, or write a concise explanation. How is this different to reform?
2. Draw a diagram to explain where the power lay in France before the Revolution: <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/french-revolution-topics/>
3. Write a short biography (half a page on each) or make mind-maps for LXVI and Marie Antoinette summarising their characters

Write a short response to this question.

4. How much can we learn from the short source written by Arthur Young about public opinion of Louis and Marie Antoinette? <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/arthur-young-reports-on-paris-and-versailles-1787/>

To answer the question ...

- a) How can the source help me?
- b) What can I draw from it?
- c) Can I depend on it or trust it?
- d) Where does it fit within the knowledge I already have?

5. Have a look at some of the other sources at Alpha History....When does a source become evidence?
6. **A ‘health check’ of Ancien Regime France; Just how “sick” was Ancien Regime France in the years before the French Revolution?**

This task will help you explore the need for reform and also help you understand how the French Revolution came about.

Take these headings as themes to explore and write down the serious problems facing France in these areas. If it helps, use the structure below to record your ideas.

“The disease” Problems facing the Ancien Regime

Date	Social	Economic	Political	Ideas/ Enlightenment	Religion	Security
1763						
1774						
1788						

“The prescription” For each of the dates below select a problem or a group of problems that you’ve identified and suggest a solution that was feasible at that time and in the context of the Ancien Regime

Date	Problem	Solution	Where did/would opposition to change come from?
1763			
1774			
1788			

7. Why did reform proposals fail? Draw a mind map/write a concise explanation that includes the reasons you have discovered so far.

8. By what date had the Revolution “happened”? How do you know?

9. What’s your view on **Why Revolution not Reform?** Summarise your thoughts in a short written explanation.

Have a look at some approaches by historians to the question of causes... <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/french-revolution-historians/> ...and continue your reading

British History: 1625 to 1701

Some useful resources

Recommended reading: 'The Blazing World: A New History of Revolutionary England' by Jonathan Healy.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1brryNURhltxACPNFAycjtbR4gySKSOKt/view?usp=sharing> - download this thematic overview of the course from the exam board to find out how the course is structured

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KzZVq8Nbx1uFVwXXA_noliAmyicC4zHwccQf9CMz-o/edit?usp=sharing - a directory of podcasts on various aspects of the course

<https://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-251> - an excellent series of lectures on the Stuart period

Getting to grips with the period, key features and essential knowledge

Task one:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/186JeaAPKBpyjBtZtgXlscGJPGvKknvCz/view?usp=sharing> - download this grid and research the events to gain an overview of the period and the themes of study

Task two:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F8ZOqSQsmbYkvxWTiQTmlqfgSD_mOHTB/view?usp=sharing - download this grid and use the prompts in each column to overview the key developments in the given areas between 1066 and 1625. The key is overview, not detail here so perhaps a dozen events/trends will do with a brief explanation of why they are so important.

Task three:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Yh8S7UUe_8JOVDz9vCLT90-zjqKur-/view?usp=sharing - download this grid and research the events of James I reign to get some context regarding what his son Charles I inherited.

Task four: how do historians do history?

1. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GP0DdPq0YhmZkHucrN2I5D_XLGDAfWoC/view?usp=sharing - this is a completed and detailed grid on the causes of the ECW. Download and read through this, adding, annotating etc to deepen your knowledge for the other steps in this task
2. https://lrgssch-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/jreynolds_lrgs_org_uk/EeDIQLG9coNivD26Ri_Y7eABrJQxGDPdkUcdJ54i1KDvgw?e=3XgOxQ - this link will open a ppt that you can work through.