GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U60-1

S24-2100U60-1

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2
DEPTH STUDY 6
France in revolution c.1774–1815
Part 1: France: the causes and course of revolution c.1774–1792

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example | **0** | **1** |.

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

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Answer **both** questions.

0 1 Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the development of the French Revolution between 1789 and 1792. [30]

Source A Gouverneur Morris, the American Ambassador to France, in his diary (14 July 1789)

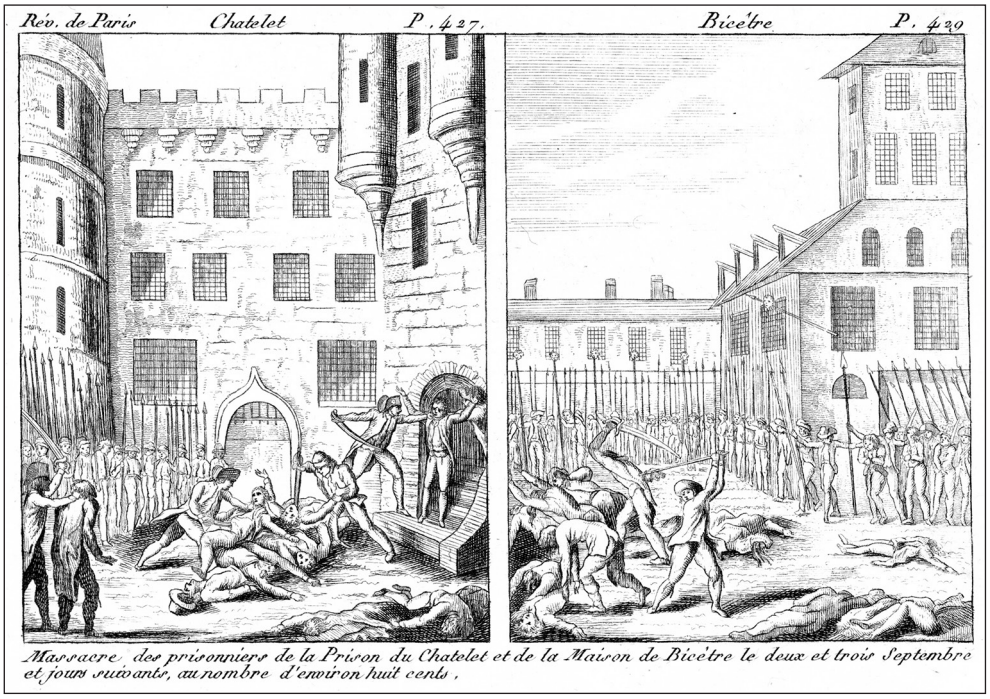
[I] go to Monsieur Le Couteulx's. While sitting here a person comes in and announces the taking of the Bastille, the Governor of which is beheaded, and [further announces that] the Prevost des Marchands is killed and also beheaded: they are carrying the heads in triumph through the city. The Invalides was forced [captured] this morning and the cannon and small arms taken. The Citizens are thus well armed; there are materials for about thirty thousand to be equipped, and that is a sufficient army. I find that the information received last night as to the arrest of the National Assembly is not true. Yesterday it was the fashion at Versailles not to believe that there were any disturbances in Paris. I presume that this day's events will convince those at Versailles that all is not perfectly quiet.

Source B Louis XVI, King of the French, in a secret memorandum to his brothers (25 September 1791)

You have doubtless been informed that I have accepted the constitution and you will know the reasons which I gave to the [National] Assembly. I want to let you know all my reasons. The condition of France is such that she is approaching total disintegration. The solution is to end partisan divisions and to restore the authority of the government. For this there are only two means: force or reconciliation … The nation likes the constitution because the word recalls to the lower portion of the people the independence in which they have lived for the last two years, and to the class above [the bourgeoisie], the constitution represents equality …

One can never govern a people against its inclinations.

Source C An anonymous engraving of the September Massacres (September 1792). The caption is translated to: “The massacre of the prisoners of the Chatelet prison and the Maison de Bicêtre [the Paris asylum for men] on 2 and 3 September and the following days, in which around 800 were killed.”



0 2 Historians have made different interpretations about **the effectiveness of the ancien régime and attempts at reform**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that attempts at reform brought about the end of the ancien régime? [30]

Interpretation 1 Paul H Beik, in this extract from his academic book *The French Revolution. Selected Documents* (1970), provides a political interpretation.

The revolution was a political effort brought on by the failure of the absolute monarchy to make reforms without losing the initiative and authority essential to government. It became a political revolution [encouraged by the bourgeoisie] to replace absolutism by some form of representative institutions. For Louis XVI, the least drastic change would have been a system guaranteeing the old social system of the ancien régime.

Interpretation 2 Alan Forrest, in this extract from his academic book *The French Revolution* (1995), provides an economic interpretation.

During the last years of the ancien régime, there was widespread dissatisfaction at many different levels of society with the manner in which France was being governed. But that dissatisfaction [particularly among the bourgeoisie] and attempts at reform did not cause the overthrow of the absolute monarchy. Rather, it was the severity of the financial crisis of the 1780s, triggered by France's costly participation in the American War of Independence, which brought about the bankruptcy of the state and made the continuance of the status quo an unattainable aim. By the later 1780s even many of the privileged members of society were prepared to sacrifice some of their privileges if the monarchy and the social system were to survive.

END OF PAPER

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