**Successes and Failures of the French Revolution, 1789-99**

**Consolidation Questions**

Note: You will probably be set this worksheet as a homework task, with discussion taking place in a subsequent lesson. Thereafter you will write an essay on the question:

**“How far did the French Revolution deliver on its promises of**

**‘Liberty, Equality and Fraternity’?”**

**Introductory Task**

**• Rank these six main objectives of the French Revolutionaries from number 1 (most success achieved) to number 6 (least success achieved) using this list as your starting point. Be prepared to justify your choice.**

1. Politics – Attacks on the Monarchy and Aristocracy to secure a Republic
2. Politics - Increased democracy (fair elections under universal suffrage)
3. Religion – Anticlericalism against the Church
4. Socio-Economic – equality of opportunity and outcome (social, economic and administrative reforms)
5. Military – End of wars (both conquest abroad, and also civil war and rebellion at home)
6. Legal - Respect for the rule of law (no arrest/sentencing without fair trial, punishments which fit the crime)

**Politics – Attacks on the Monarchy and Aristocracy to secure a Republic**

**• Although the monarcy was ultimately abolished, the Girondins initially appeared to have won the argument in favour of a Constitutional Monarchy. What event(s) tilted the balance in favour of the Jacobins, who demanded a Republic?**

**• Robespierre said that "Louis must die, so that the country may live…To punish the oppressors of humanity is clemency; to forgive them is barbarity". Do you agree that this is in the spirit of the Declaration of the Rights of Man?**

**Religion – Anticlericalism against the Church**

**Outline how the revolutionaries destroyed the influence of the Church through attacks on:**

**(a) Property:**

**(b) Personnel:**

**(c) Powers:**

**Politics - Increased democracy (fair elections under universal suffrage)**

**▪ Do you agree with Danton and Robespierre that there was a revolutionary justification for the use of Terror? (“Let us embody Terror to prevent the people from doing so” – Danton, “Terror is only justice prompt, severe and inflexible…revolution is the despotism of liberty against tyranny” – Robespierre)**

**▪ Do you agree with Napoleon’s Proclamation to the French Nation, in which he justified his seizure of power on the basis that he was “preserving liberty” by preventing “chaos”?**

**Socio-Economic – equality of opportunity and outcome (social, economic and administrative reforms)**

Explain whether the following measures deserve to be regarded as successes of the revolution.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Abolition of Trade Unions and Guilds in the Le Chapelier law. Striking remains illegal until 1864. |  |
| The ‘Cap of Liberty’ is made compulsory for all men to wear. |  |
| Laws of Ventose provide for the distribution of property of suspects to the poor. |  |
| Directory eliminates two thirds of its national debt by forcing its creditors to accept (worthless) national bonds as payment. |  |
| Law of Hostages provides for relatives of exiles to be arrested and their property confiscated if they showed any rebellious tendencies. |  |

**Military – End of wars (both conquest abroad, and also civil war and rebellion at home)**

**The “Marseillaise” was accepted as the French National Anthem. Read its lyrics (easily located on the web). To what extent do they match the ideals of the French revolution?**

**Did the Decree on Fraternity adequately justify the Decree on Natural Borders?**

**Legal - Respect for the rule of law (no arrest/sentencing without fair trial, punishments which fit the crime).**

**Explain whether you think each of the following were justified.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **How justified? (0-100%)?** | **Explanation** |
| **Execution of King Louis** |  |  |
| **Execution of Marie-Antoinette** |  |  |
| **Execution of Danton** |  |  |
| **Execution of Robespierre** |  |  |

**Conclusion**

Watch the video clip on the Significance of the French Revolution (<http://youtu.be/BOUkO7q-1EQ>) and make notes on the main points made here.