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| In the 18th century the population of France increased. This meant there were more landless peasants and poor workers. | King Louis XVI was a weak and unsure ruler of France since taking the throne in 1774. He was unable to control the church or nobles. |
| Since 1700 prices rose faster than wages. This meant people could buy less with their incomes. | When the Estates General met in 1789 the king was unable to stop the Third Estate from demanding powers in government. |
| Harvests in 1787 and 1788 were very bad. Crops failed and people went hungry as there was not enough food. | New ideas, called the Enlightenment, challenged the power of the monarch and church in the 1700s. |
| War with Britain (1756-1763) caused the French government to run short of money. Taxes rose to pay for the war. | King Louis XVI refused to sell grain cheaply to the peasants when the harvest failed in 1787 and 1788. This increased their suffering. |
| In 1787 the aristocrats (nobles) refused to help the king by paying a new land tax. This left the government bankrupt. | Queen Marie Antoinette was hated by the people of Paris for wasting lots of money on parties and clothes during the 1770s and 1780s. |
| France helped the Americans defeat Britain in the American War of Independence (1778-1783). This cost the government a huge amount of money. | France lost many of its colonies to Britain in the 1750s and 1760s in the Caribbean and India. This cost them money and trade. |
| In 1788 the French government was so short of money it had to call an Estates General (Parliament) for the first time since 1714. | A new group of rich middle class men such as lawyers and businessmen were excluded from power by the nobles and church in the 1700s. |
| In 1788 the French Catholic church refused to help the king by paying more taxes to the government. | The peasants and middle classes (Third Estate) paid almost all of the taxes in France while the rich nobles and church paid virtually none. |

**Extended answer – The causes of the French Revolution**

**Introduction**

* The French Revolution took place in……………….. (explain briefly what happened).

**Main paragraphs**

* One of the main reasons the Revolution occurred was because of the great divide between classes in 18th century France.

*Explain how France was divided, why this was unfair and caused resentment. How did it lead to revolution – give examples.*

* Another reason why France experienced a Revolution was because war.

*Explain the wars France were involved in and how this caused problems at home – give examples.*

* Weaknesses of the French Monarchy (King and Queen) were also contributing factors in causing the revolution.

*Explain the weaknesses of both the King and the Queen – give examples*

**Conclusion**

* In conclusion the most significant cause of the French Revolution was …………… this was made worse by…………….

*Explain what you think are the most important reasons for the French revolution.*