**The French Revolution – Exam Questions**

**BP1: Crisis of the Ancient Regime, role of the Monarchy, specifically Louis XVI; intellectual, political, social, financial and economic challenges.**

To what extent do you agree with the claim that Louis XVI caused the French Revolution?

“Economic problems were the main cause of the French Revolution.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Discuss the contribution made by the ideas of the Enlightenment to the outbreak of the French Revolution.

To what extent were financial problems the most significant cause of the French Revolution?

To what extent was the bankruptcy of the French monarchy the main cause of revolution in France in 1789?

To what extent were economic rather than political factors responsible for the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789?

Evaluate the importance of two causes of the French Revolution of 1789.

To what extent was the French monarchy both the main cause and the main victim of the 1789 French Revolution?

**BP2: Monarchy to Republic: causes and significance of the French Revolution; the 1791 constitution; the fate of the monarchy; the Terror; Robespierre; the Thermidorean reaction.**

What factors made it difficult to establish a limited monarchy in France between 1789 and 1792?

Why, and with what consequences for France, was Louis XVI executed?

Evaluate the causes of the Reign of Terror of 1793–1794.

‘A ruthless dictator’; ‘a true social and political democrat’. With reference to the French revolutionary leader, Robespierre, explain which statement you consider to be more appropriate.

For what reasons, and with what results, was the French Revolution so violent between 1789 and 1794?

Analyse the reasons for the violent nature of the French Revolution in the years 1789–1794.

Discuss the reasons for the Thermidorean Reaction (1794–1795).

**BP3: The political, social and economic impact of the Revolution; French revolutionary wars (1792 – 1799).**

To what extent did the outbreak of war in April 1792 change the nature and the course of the French Revolution?

“The revolutionary wars of 1792–1796 were to defend France and not spread revolution.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

To what extent were the main demands of revolutionaries in France met between 1789 and 1794?

**BP4: Establishment of; nature of and collapse of the Directory (1795 – 1799).**

Analyse the reasons for the fall of the Directory in 1799.

**BP5: Rise and Rule of Napoleon (1799 – 1815); impact of Napoleon’s domestic and foreign policies on France.**

**Rise**

In what ways, and to what extent, was the French Revolution responsible for the rise of Napoleon I?

To what extent can it be said that Napoleon I was “the child of the French Revolution”?

Analyse the factors which allowed Napoleon Bonaparte to gain and retain power in France in the years 1795–1804.

**Domestic Policy**

Discuss the domestic policies of Napoleon I between 1799 and 1814.

“The success of Napoleon’s domestic policies in France between 1802 and 1815 has been greatly exaggerated.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

“Napoleon Bonaparte failed to maintain the ideals of the French Revolution in his domestic policies.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

‘Napoleon’s domestic policies successfully reformed and modernized France’. To what extent do you agree with this assertion?

Evaluate the success of Napoleon I’s domestic policies in the period from 1799 to 1815.

**Foreign Policy**

“Napoleon’s foreign policies were not nearly as successful as his domestic policies.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

To what extent did Napoleon apply the principles of the French Revolution in France and in the territories which he occupied?

“The overall effect of Napoleon I’s foreign policy was to bring glory to France.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion?

**Impact**

“Napoleon will trample underfoot [destroy] the rights of man, put himself above them and become a tyrant.” To what extent was this prediction correct?

“A new France emerged out of the revolution; Napoleon Bonaparte’s achievement was to organize it.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

To what extent has Napoleon’s impact on France between 1800 and 1815 been exaggerated?

In what ways did France benefit from the rule of Napoleon I between 1799 and 1814?

**BP6: Napoleonic wars (1803 – 1815); Collapse of the Napoleonic Empire, military defeat; the Hundred Days.**

**Collapse of the Empire**

Examine the reasons for the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire (1812–1815).

“Napoleon’s ambitious imperial policy was the main reason for his ultimate failure.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**Congress of Vienna**

Analyse the successes and failures of the Congress of Vienna (1814–1815).

“The restoration of legitimate rulers was the main objective of the Congress of Vienna.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

How successful was the Congress of Vienna in achieving the aims of the peacemakers?

In what ways and for what reasons did the French Revolution a) benefit France and b) harm France?

Examine the reasons for the restoration of the Bourbons in France.