



# Cambridge Pre-U

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## HISTORY

9769/56

Paper 5f Special Subject: The French Revolution, 1774–1794

May/June 2023

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].



**Attempts at reform and their failure, 1774–1789****Question 1**

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

- A** *A liberal noble, who had fought in the American War of Independence, recalls the impact of the Compte Rendu published in January 1781.*

Necker, who ably administered the finances, took a step that was considered important and useful by some, but dangerous and detrimental by others; he printed and published the financial report that he had rendered to the king. This was an innovation without precedent in France and produced a sort of mental revolution. Before this the nation had remained in complete ignorance about the national finances. Even among the educated classes, these were a mystery. The appeal to public opinion by sharing the secrets of the finances was an appeal for liberty. The public were able to discuss, praise, criticise and pass judgements. It encouraged a view that the people had a right to examine and even refuse the burdens placed upon them. However, he gained enemies at court who were to destroy him a few months later.

Louis Philippe, Count of Ségur, *Memoirs*, 1827.

- B** *Necker's daughter explains her father's resignation which took place in 1781.*

The lesser and poorer courtiers declared against Necker. The greater and richer Lords were less critical than the obscure swarm of hangers-on hoping to get gifts from the King. Necker cut back on spending by the King's household in pensions and gifts. But the princes and financiers were opposed to another plan which he presented to the King and which had been indiscreetly published in regard to setting up new provincial assemblies. Necker asked the King to remove those who were slandering him from the household of the Count of Artois. But the feebler monarchs are, the more they try to appear firm, even if it means ignoring good advice and losing loyal ministers. Thus the King did not refuse Necker's resignation or agree to his conditions for remaining in office.

Anne-Marie Germaine, Baroness de Staël-Holstein,  
*Considerations on the Principal Events of the French Revolution*, 1843.

Compare and contrast the evidence in documents A and B for views about Necker's policies. You should analyse the content and the provenance of both documents. [10]

## The role of women in the French Revolution

### Question 2

Study all the following documents, C, D, E and F, and answer the question which follows.

- C** *Working women petition the King at the same time that local meetings were drawing up the Cahiers.*

The women of the Third Estate are almost all born without wealth; their education is very neglected or very defective. It consists in their being sent to school with a teacher who himself does not know the first word of the language [Latin] he teaches. They continue to go there until they can read the service of the Mass in French and Vespers in Latin. Having fulfilled the first duties of religion, they are taught to work; having reached the age of fifteen or sixteen, they can earn five or six *sous* a day. If nature has refused them beauty they get married, without a dowry, to poorer workmen; they lead aimless, difficult lives stuck in the provinces; and they give birth to children whom they are incapable of raising. We ask that men should not be allowed, under any pretext, to exercise trades that are the prerogative of women—whether as seamstress, embroiderer, or millinery shopkeeper.

Petition, January 1789.

- D** *An anonymous woman in Normandy, known only as Madame B... B... , demands rights for women during the discussion of grievances prior to the calling of the Estates General in 1789. Her views were published later that year.*

The role of women has been *work, obey, and shut up*. But today, enlightenment and reason have demonstrated the absurdity of all this. We believe that it is entirely just to allow women, widows or girls who possess land or other property, to bring their grievances to the King, and that it is also just to give them the right to vote, because they are obliged, just as are men, to pay royal taxes. It may be alleged that the most that women should be granted is representation by proxy at the Estates General. We reply that just as it has been demonstrated that a noble cannot be represented by a commoner nor a commoner by a noble, by the same token a man cannot represent a woman. The representatives should have absolutely the same interests as those represented: therefore women should be represented only by women.

Madame B... B... , *Cahier of Grievances and Demands of Women*, May 1789.

- E** *Following the October 1789 disturbances, a Commission of the Assembly takes evidence from some of the women who had marched to Versailles.*

Madelaine Glain, forty-two years old, a cleaning woman testifies that she was forced, as many women were, to follow the crowd that went to Versailles last Monday to ask for bread. One woman, a prostitute, said that she was going to Versailles to bring back the queen's head but was sharply reproached by the others. When she got to the Palace with the intention of informing His Majesty about the shortage of bread, Glain went with the other women to the hall of the National Assembly. Some of these women asked for the price of a four-pound loaf and the price of meat to be fixed. She called for silence, and then she said that they were just asking that they could afford to buy bread.

*Report of Testimony of Madelaine Glain*, October 1789.

**F** *A petition to the National Assembly urges rights for women.*

Will we women be the only ones who will not participate in regeneration that will renew the face of France? You have broken the sceptre of despotism, you have pronounced the beautiful words that the French are a free people. Yet still you allow thirteen million females to be ruled by male despots! You have preached the true equality of rights—and you still unjustly withhold them from the sweetest and most interesting half among you! Finally, you have decreed that the path to high positions and honours should be open without prejudice to all talents; yet you continue to throw up insurmountable barriers to us! Your blind prejudice, your masculine aristocracy, incessantly chain down our courage, our wisdom, and our talents.

*Request of the women to the National Assembly, October 1789.*

How convincing is the evidence provided in this set of documents for the view that the female grievances during the Revolution were mainly driven by political concerns? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in the set (C–F). [30]

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