

Subject	A Level History Unit 2 – France in Revolution																								
Context	<p>These activities are designed to introduce you to the subject matter of France in Revolution. This will ensure that you begin the course in September with an understanding of the ‘Big Picture’ of this revolutionary period, laying the foundations for our course by exploring what France was like before the Revolution and enabling you to visualise its impact through an exploration of the way in which it shaped art and culture.</p> <p>Guidance on each of the activities is provided within the ‘France in Revolution Bridging Materials Activities Pack’</p>																								
Securing	<p>Section 1: Key concepts</p> <p>Learn the following key vocabulary and definitions. You will refer to these terms as part of the course, and it is crucial that you have a good understanding of them from the outset.</p> <p>We recommend that you make a set of flash cards and test yourself several times to aid familiarity.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="384 857 1465 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key term</th><th>Definition</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Absolutism</td><td>System where the monarch has complete authority over the lives of his people</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ancien Règime</td><td>Term coined in 1790 by the revolutionary Mirabeau; used to describe the political and social system of France before 1789 (especially the estates system)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clergy</td><td>People who work for the Church: archbishops, bishops, parish priests, monks and nuns</td></tr> <tr> <td>Constitution</td><td>Set of rules by which a country is governed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Controller – General</td><td>Title taken by the minister in charge of finances in France between 1661 and 1791</td></tr> <tr> <td>Don gratuit</td><td>Instead of paying tax, the Church decided an amount that they would pay to the king every 5 years; usually amounted to 2% of their income</td></tr> <tr> <td>Enlightenment</td><td>Intellectual and cultural movement which spread across Europe during the 18th century, which questioned traditional ideas, assumptions and institutions.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Estate</td><td>Refers to people’s social standing; in France, there were three distinct estates with corresponding privileges and burdens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Estate = the clergy (members of the Church) • Second Estate = the nobility • Third Estate = everybody else (commoners) </td></tr> <tr> <td>Lettre de cachet</td><td>Letter bearing king’s royal seal by which he could order someone to be imprisoned (without a trial)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lit de justice</td><td>Royal session of the Paris Parlement for the compulsory registration of royal edicts (proposed law)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Parlement</td><td>High court of law which also registered royal decrees/edicts, establishing them as law</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Key term	Definition	Absolutism	System where the monarch has complete authority over the lives of his people	Ancien Règime	Term coined in 1790 by the revolutionary Mirabeau; used to describe the political and social system of France before 1789 (especially the estates system)	Clergy	People who work for the Church: archbishops, bishops, parish priests, monks and nuns	Constitution	Set of rules by which a country is governed	Controller – General	Title taken by the minister in charge of finances in France between 1661 and 1791	Don gratuit	Instead of paying tax, the Church decided an amount that they would pay to the king every 5 years; usually amounted to 2% of their income	Enlightenment	Intellectual and cultural movement which spread across Europe during the 18 th century, which questioned traditional ideas, assumptions and institutions.	Estate	Refers to people’s social standing; in France, there were three distinct estates with corresponding privileges and burdens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Estate = the clergy (members of the Church) • Second Estate = the nobility • Third Estate = everybody else (commoners) 	Lettre de cachet	Letter bearing king’s royal seal by which he could order someone to be imprisoned (without a trial)	Lit de justice	Royal session of the Paris Parlement for the compulsory registration of royal edicts (proposed law)	Parlement	High court of law which also registered royal decrees/edicts, establishing them as law
Key term	Definition																								
Absolutism	System where the monarch has complete authority over the lives of his people																								
Ancien Règime	Term coined in 1790 by the revolutionary Mirabeau; used to describe the political and social system of France before 1789 (especially the estates system)																								
Clergy	People who work for the Church: archbishops, bishops, parish priests, monks and nuns																								
Constitution	Set of rules by which a country is governed																								
Controller – General	Title taken by the minister in charge of finances in France between 1661 and 1791																								
Don gratuit	Instead of paying tax, the Church decided an amount that they would pay to the king every 5 years; usually amounted to 2% of their income																								
Enlightenment	Intellectual and cultural movement which spread across Europe during the 18 th century, which questioned traditional ideas, assumptions and institutions.																								
Estate	Refers to people’s social standing; in France, there were three distinct estates with corresponding privileges and burdens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Estate = the clergy (members of the Church) • Second Estate = the nobility • Third Estate = everybody else (commoners) 																								
Lettre de cachet	Letter bearing king’s royal seal by which he could order someone to be imprisoned (without a trial)																								
Lit de justice	Royal session of the Paris Parlement for the compulsory registration of royal edicts (proposed law)																								
Parlement	High court of law which also registered royal decrees/edicts, establishing them as law																								

	Remonstrance	Document sent by a parlement to the monarch protesting against a royal decree	
Processing	<p>Section 2: France before the Revolution</p> <p>Use the information scan, and your own research if you are investigating the topics listed under 'more challenging', to produce a one/two-page summary of the <i>Ancien Regime</i>. It is up to you how you present your findings; aim to include images and charts as these will be useful in helping you to understand and remember the key information.</p> <p>Essential content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of the Ancien Regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette ◦ Versailles and the royal court (you will find it useful to explore the website for the Palace of Versailles to get a sense of its grandeur and history: http://en.chateauversailles.fr/discover) ◦ How the government worked and the problems the government faced • Social system of the Ancien Regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Overview of the estates system ◦ Summary of the key details, responsibilities and privileges of each of the three estates ◦ Impact of this social system on the financial and economic problems of France <p>More challenging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Church and religion in France before the Revolution • France's position in the world and international relations in the 18th Century • Intellectual context of the French Revolution – the Age of Enlightenment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ https://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/enlightenment/section3/ ◦ https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/enlightenment/ <p>Analysing what you have read:</p> <p>The first question our course poses is 'why did the French Revolution break out in 1789?'. Your research will have helped you to understand more about some of the longer-term causes of tension in France.</p> <p>On A4 paper (unless you use a word processor for exams), write two or three paragraphs explaining why tension was increasing in France before 1789. It will be helpful to consider the divisions and weaknesses in France that you have been researching and consider how each area created problems for the French people or the King and his government.</p>		
Exploring	<p>Royal History's Biggest Fibs – The French Revolution</p> <p>As you watch the documentary, take notes in Section 3 of your activities pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record specific details of the myth or misconception in the space on the left (you have been given headings to use as prompts) • Add evidence that challenges each misconception to the column on the right. • Some headings only appear in the right-hand column; this is because there is useful evidence for you to have but no myth to debunk! 		

	You will also find a list of videos, podcasts and books the 'Additional recommendations' section of the activities pack to further immerse yourself in the revolutionary period.
Reviewing	<p>Based on the work that you have completed, write down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 key details about the period in France before 1789 • 5 questions that you would like to ask your teacher about the French revolutionary period in your first lesson