

## VCAA exam questions – French Revolution – 2008 to 2017

*This table is an easy one-page guide to every French Revolution question from the last ten VCAA exam papers. Studying this table will help you familiarise yourself with the structure and language of the exam, as well as the common focus of many questions (indicated in bold type). These summaries have been collated and adapted from VCAA papers. To examine the sources or exact wording of questions, please consult the original papers. This document is © Alpha History 2018.*

Year	Question 1 Ext. response AOS1 10 marks	Question 2 Ext. response AOS1 10 marks	Question 3 Evidence analysis AOS2 20 marks	Question 4 Evidence analysis AOS1 20 marks	Question 5 Short essay AOS2 20 marks
2008	Ideas expressed in the cahiers	<b>Social distinctions</b> in the calling of the Estates General	Historian's extract (Doyle) on the <b>National Constituent Assembly</b> and its work	Visual, <i>Justice stands with the strongest</i> , 1789, depicting <b>Three Estates</b> on a see-saw	New society: - <b>grievances</b> - <b>fulfilment of ideas</b> - <b>political authority</b>
2009	Consequences of <b>involvement in the American War of Independence</b>	The actions and role of the <b>Paris Parlement</b> in 1787 and 1788	Historian's extract (Rudé) on the <b>CPS</b> and the <b>centralisation of government power</b>	Historian's extract (Schama) on the <b>August Decrees</b> , 1789	Was <b>political power for all people</b> achieved in practice in the new society?
2010	The impact of <b>publications</b> in 1788 and 1789	The impact of the <b>dismissal of Necker</b> , Jul 1789	Visual, <b>National Guard</b> soldiers take the patriotic oath, 1792	Document, letter on the <b>Reveillon riots</b> in Paris, April 1789	To what extent were <b>liberty, equality and fraternity</b> fulfilled in the revolution?
2011	Pressures on the <b>cost of food and living</b> , 1781-89	Frustration, anger of <b>Third Estate deputies</b> in 1789	Visual, <i>The People at Tuileries</i> , June 1792, depicting <b>Louis XVI</b> with an <b>angry mob</b>	Historian's extract (Mathiez) on the <b>August Decrees</b> , 1789	To what extent did the <b>urgent pressure of the poor classes</b> bring about change?
2012	The contribution of the <b>nobility</b>	The impact of the <b>Tennis Court Oath</b> in Jun 1789	Historian's extract (McPhee) on the <b>Vendee uprising</b> and <b>opposition to the rev</b>	Visual, French engraving depicting the <b>high clergy being divested of wealth</b>	"In the end <b>the revolution failed to satisfy anyone.</b> " Do you agree?
2013	<b>Failed attempts at reform</b> between 1781 and Aug 1789	The <b>attack on the Bastille</b> , Jul 1789	Visual, Tassaert painting depicting the <b>arrest of Robespierre</b> on 9/10 Thermidor	Historian's extract (Salvemini) on the <b>impact of the American Revolution</b>	Was the revolution "inspiring, appalling and in every sense a tragedy"?
2014	<b>Demands for the calling of the Estates General</b> , from 1787 to 1789	The <b>movement of troops to Paris</b> in June-July 1789	Drawing, Memorable Day, depicting the <b>October march on Versailles</b> , 1789	Historian's extract, George Rudé on the <b>economic conditions of 1787 to 1789</b>	To what extent <b>were the revolutionaries united</b> in creating the new society?
2015	The impact of <b>Enlightenment ideas</b> from 1787 to August 1789	The <b>locked doors of the Assembly meeting hall</b> in June 1789	Painting, <i>Louis XVI swearing Loyalty to the Constitution</i> , and the <b>king's attitude to the revolution</b>	Historian's extract, Salvemini on the <b>Estates General and debates over voting</b>	To what extent was the rev. <b>challenged by enemies</b> in the creation of the new society?
<b>New format</b>	<b>Question 1 Source analysis AOS1 20 marks</b>	<b>Question 2 Ext. response AOS2 10 marks</b>	<b>Question 3 Ext. response AOS2 10 marks</b>	<b>Question 4 Short essay AOS1 20 marks</b>	<b>Question 5 Source analysis AOS2 20 marks</b>
2016	Sources (Madame Necker and Desmoulins) on the <b>sacking of Necker</b>	How <b>legislation to reorganise the Church</b> challenged the new society	Conditions influencing leaders to form the <b>Committee of Public Safety</b>	" <b>Financial collapse outweighs</b> " all other forces that drove France to revolution	Visual depictions of <b>Louis XVI</b> , one laying foundations, the other as a pig
2017	Cobban and Rudé on <b>peasants and the Great Fear</b> as cause of revolution	The responses of <b>émigrés</b> and the <b>clergy</b> to changes of the revolution	<b>Internal divisions</b> that arose from 1793 over <b>aims of the revolution</b>	<b>Privilege</b> outweighs all other factors as the cause of the revolution	Two images and a historian (Dowd) on <b>popularity and perceptions of Lafayette</b>