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3

91438



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QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD  
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## Level 3 History, 2018

### 91438 Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 14 November 2018

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Analyse, in depth, the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**Write ONE essay in this booklet.**

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

Low Merit

**TOTAL**

**05**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event that you have studied, using the essay task below. Your essay should be concise and well argued.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

**ESSAY TASK**

Julius Caesar once said, "events of importance are the result of trivial causes."

With reference to the causes and consequences of a historical event you have studied this year, analyse the extent to which you agree or disagree with Caesar.

Historical event: French Revolution

## PLANNING

## Causes:

## Division of Three Estates:

- social, political & economic inequalities
- clergy - 20%, 130,000 people
- nobility - 400,000, 20%, Feudal dues
- Third Estate, 25 million, 98% - military service
- ↳ bourgeoisie - political exclusion
- \* Age of Enlightenment

gabelle  
tithe  
feudal

Bankruptcy - serious economic cause  
~ 1787

- ↓  
American Rev - 1 billion livres debt  
King Louis XVI & Marie ( $\frac{1}{12}$ )  
Bad harvests 1788  
Severe winter 1789      May 5th  
↳ Estates General 1789

## Extent to which causes are/are not trivial:

causes are not trivial

- economic, social
- political state was unstable

↓  
significantly affected every member of French society.

- ↳ meaning:
- insignificant
  - not severe
  - were not seen as an issue at the time

disagree

bankruptcy & poverty are not trivial.

## Evaluation of key consequences:

## Napoleon Bonaparte

- military ranks
- Directoire
- 1802 & 1804
- Napoleonic Wars
- 1812 - Russia - 300,000
- European nations → exile to Saint Helena

events of importance, also caused by non-trivial events

↓  
discuss in outro

- ↳ Human Rights laws  
equality before law  
museums & libraries  
fairer tax

## Wider Europe

- democratic standard
- ↳ Italy & German
- equality, liberty & fraternity.

removal of monarchy,  
Ancien Régime,  
Catholic church lost power

Begin your essay here:

The French Revolution, which took place between the years of 1789 - 1799, was a significant historical event resulting in the removal of the monarchy in France, as well as setting democratic standards for the wider Europe. These events were the result of significant political, economic & social systems in place in France, that left a severe negative impact on many French citizens, prior to the revolution. Consequently, the revolution was the cause of further changes across France, that remain present in the modern day. Because of this, it can be concluded that not only the French Revolution & and its consequences, but also the causes, were deeply significant, and far from trivial.

The most significant long term cause of the French Revolution was the division of the Three Estates, under the Ancien Régime. French society was divided into three estates: clergy (first estate), nobility (second estate) and everyone else (third estate), each with varying social, political & economic power. The clergy consisted of approximately 130,000 people, all of which were religious leaders high up in the Catholic church. Because France was a heavily Catholic nation, the Catholic church held a significant amount of power, and also taxed the French population through the tithe. Nobility were the wealthy lords (approximately 400,000), and owned 20% of French land. Both the clergy & and nobility were exempt from taxation and military service, placing the financial burden on the Third Estate, most of which were in lower income jobs. The Third Estate consisted of 25,000,000 people,

all of whom were subject to extensive taxation through the tithe (church tax), gabelle (salt tax), feudal dues, and goods and income taxes. The instability of this system meant that later financial issues had immense economic damage on France, and created growing resentment from the Third Estate towards the French monarchy. As well as being <sup>an</sup> "economically burdensome", the Ancien régime stripped the Third Estate of political involvement, which angered the more highly educated estate members (bourgeoisie). Long term, the division of the estates led to an angered and oppressed population, hence why the causes of the French Revolution can be considered serious, both in themselves and in their impact. Other long term causes, such as the Age of Enlightenment (a development of scientific and spiritual ideas that questioned the power of the monarchy and the church), were also influential, however this developed more in urban cities, and had little affect on rural areas, whereas the division of French society had a direct and significant impact on the entire population.

The long-term instability of the division of the estates, alongside in combination with an accumulation of decisions and events resulted in French bankruptcy by the year 1787, which was the most significant short term cause of the French Revolution. The financial state of France was weakened by King Louis XVI, whose ~~wife's~~ choices furthered the tax burden on the Third Estate. King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette had an exuberant spending problem, that used  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the

personal

government budget on material goods. As well as this, French hatred of the British resulted in King Louis XVI sending troops and financially assisting in the American Revolution, which left France in 1 billion livres of debt. These decisions made by the king furthered the poor economic conditions in France, which left them ill-prepared for the severe weather in 1788 - 1789, that resulted in bad harvests. France ~~were~~ was a country reliant on its ~~agriculture~~ agriculture, and the bad harvests increased the demand and ~~prat~~ prices for food, which left many of the Third Estate members without money or food, on top of the taxation burden that was already in place. The accumulation of poor economic ~~condition~~ <sup>decisions</sup> resulted in French bankruptcy, which was a severe issue for both French citizens and the monarchy. On May 5th 1789, King Louis XVI called for a meeting of the Estates General, in hopes of equalising taxation to solve the issue of bankruptcy, however, the refusal of the clergy and nobility to give up their tax exemption resulted in the Third Estate's removal from the Estates General, to form their own National Assembly. Bankruptcy in France was the short term cause for these events, which marked the beginning of the French Revolution, making this economic cause the most significant. The non-trivial nature of the bankruptcy, which resulted in widespread poverty and famine, is why the revolution was so passionately embraced by French society, who had felt long-term resentment towards their monarchy, hence the radicalisation of ideals over the course of the revolution, that contributed to the event's importance.

The French revolution saw the initial ideals of the National Assembly radicalised, causing the Reign of Terror, and the replacement of the monarchy with a republic, led by a 5-man directorate. Napoleon Bonaparte, a French military general who had moved up in military ranks,<sup>(and was involved in overthrowing the Directorie)</sup> was the most significant short term consequence of the French Revolution, due to the impact he had on French society and wider Europe.

Napoleon made himself First Consul of France in 1802, and Emperor two years later, giving him absolute power. Amongst wider Europe, Napoleon embarked on extensive invasions of European nations, known as the Napoleonic Wars. Although many were successful, some unsuccessful battles such as the Battle of Waterloo, weakened his favour with French citizens, as well as European countries who disliked his attempts to expand his empire. In 1812, Napoleon unsuccessfully invaded Russia, killing 300,000<sup>of his own</sup> men due to poor strategy, and a lack of preparation for the Russian winter. Unfavourable to other European nations, Napoleon was exiled to the island of Saint Helena, where he died aged 51. Besides the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon made positive reforms to France, ~~that~~ many of which remain significant today. Napoleon made taxes fairer beyond the removal of the Ancien Régime, and put emphasis on education for men, through the building of libraries and museums across France. As a leader, he was the face of the new Republic, despite his almost autocratic rule, making him the most significant short

(  
the Directorie, )

term cause of the French revolution. The removal of the monarchy because of the revolution allowed Napoleon to gain power, and as a man from a non-royal or clergy background, he embodied the new political power accessible to French citizens following the dismantling of the Ancien Régime.

long-term, the French revolution had a significant impact on the lives of French citizens. Particularly for those of the Third Estate, which was the vast majority of the population, the removed tax burden, and increased social and political freedom was of great significance. The most significant long term consequence was the embraced ideals of equality, liberty and fraternity, & represented in the current French flag. Napoleon Bonaparte introduced equality between men in front of the law, which is still a foundation of French law today. France post-revolution set the standard of democratic representation in government, inspiring change in countries like Italy and Germany. The separation of church and state was another influential change, that loosened the power of the Holy Roman Empire in France. These long-term consequences were significant because they withstand today, and are the foundations of modern day democracy, all of which, a result of non-trivial causes and events.

The deep monarchial resentment from the people in France due to the division of the estates resulted in an economically futile nation that revolted against their monarchy. The desperation of the French people was a result of severe and deeply significant causes, that led to the

events of importance involved in the French Revolution. The removal of the monarchy, and Napoleon's reforms to France resulted in long-term impacts present in modern day France. When examining these causes, events and consequences, it can be concluded that events of importance are the result of non-trivial ~~background~~ causes, and further, consequences of importance are the result of non-trivial events. This can be observed in the severity of French poverty that led to the French Revolution, and how the radicalisation of these ideals resulted in long-standing democratic standards in modern government, as a result of these events.

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Write the question number(s) if applicable.**

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## Merit Exemplar 2018

Subject	History	Standard	91438	Total score	05
<b>Historical Event:</b> The French Revolution					
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
	M5	<p>The candidate's understanding of the quote is evident in their planning and a key word from the quote, 'trivial', is acknowledged in the introduction. Although a limited reference, it is evident that the candidate has taken a position on the quote indicating that an argument will follow. The event is not addressed in its own paragraph, but the time frame for the event is acknowledged in the introduction.</p> <p>The candidate discusses important causations: the division of the three estates under the Ancient Regime and French bankruptcy. A further long-term cause is briefly mentioned, the 'Age of Enlightenment', but the candidate argues that this is not more important than the other two because it was more relevant to the urban sector than the rural sector. The explanation for the exclusion of this cause shows some insight.</p> <p>The candidate outlines a limited argument in each paragraph that causes are serious and not trivial. Overall, whilst there is evidence of candidate engagement with the quote, it has not been addressed overtly and there is no clear discussion of the extent to which the candidate agrees or disagrees with the quote. However, this still meets the criteria for an M5 grade.</p> <p>Two valid consequences are identified and discussed: the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte and the long-term impact on the lives of French citizens. The candidate has made an attempt to argue the significance of these consequences by focusing on the long-lasting impact of these consequences beyond France and the French population. Further detailed supporting evidence for these key consequences would have been required to achieve a higher grade.</p> <p>The candidate returns to the quote in the conclusion, this time attempting to focus on all components of the quote but does so only briefly.</p> <p>Overall, the candidate has demonstrated a solid understanding of the causes and valid understanding of the consequences of the French Revolution, with some strong evidence to support key arguments but not consistently across the response. The candidate attempts to address the question, but the extent to which the causes were not trivial is not explained well. A more developed discussion as to the extent to which the causes were not trivial, and greater inclusion of supporting evidence, would have helped the candidate to create a more convincing argument and achieve a higher grade.</p>			