



Purpose of task:

To gain greater understanding of France in the eighteenth century by gaining context of French history.

Task: You are going to produce a research project exploring two key influences on France by the late eighteenth century. Research the below questions and write notes (in full sentences). Use sub-headings and write your notes in bullet point form. Aim to write around 3 sides of A4.

1. **Louis XIV 'The Sun King' – how did his reign change France in the Seventeenth Century?**
 - a) How did Louis XIV create an absolute monarchy in France? (consider: taxation, army, wars)
 - b) The Palace of Versailles:
 - i. How did Louis change it during the reign of Louis XIV?
 - ii. What did it show about the French monarchy?
2. **The ideas of the Enlightenment – how were political ideas changing in the eighteenth century?**
 - a) Who were the *Philosophes*? Find out about the main works and ideas of:
 - i. Montesquieu
 - ii. Voltaire
 - iii. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - iv. Denis Diderot
 - b) How did events in America affect France? Find out about the following:
 - i. Causes of the American War of Independence
 - ii. The Declaration of Independence and US Constitution – what Enlightenment ideas did these documents include?
 - iii. French involvement in the American War of Independence (aid supplied; French volunteers including the role of the Marquis de Lafayette)

Recommended resources:

Useful Websites include:

BBC History site – Louis XIV
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/louis_xiv.shtml

<http://en.chateauversailles.fr/discover/history>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/philosophe>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_in_the_American_Revolutionary_War

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

<https://frda.stanford.edu/>

Films/ TV:

'Versailles from Louis XVIII to French Revolution'
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X235vpOToVU>)

'Versailles' TV series (available on iPlayer)



Optional:

Consider reading (or listening to via Audible) one of the following fictional novels set during the French Revolution:

- *A Place of Greater Safety* by Hilary Mantel (1992) – covers the key events from the perspective of the key figures involved.
- *Pure* by Andrew Miller (2011) – covers the events of the revolution from the perspective of a fictional engineer.

Watch *La Révolution française* (1989) (available on YouTube) which will help to familiarise yourself with the key events of the revolution.

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 10th September 2018

Required Stationery and Equipment for A Level History – Early Modern, European

2 x A4 ring binders (one for British, one for European), lined paper, x2 highlighter pens, ring binder dividers.

Essential Resources

n/a

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

Students will be provided with a reading list and be recommended some key texts to purchase their own copy of. (Textbooks will be lent out by the department).