

8: The French Revolution and Napoleon I (1774–1815)

This section deals with the origins, outbreak, course and impact of the French Revolution. It focuses on the social, economic, political and intellectual challenges confronting the *Ancien Régime* and the stages of the revolutionary process during this period, culminating in the rise and rule of Napoleon Bonaparte. The section requires investigation of the impact of the French Revolution, as well as Napoleon's domestic and foreign policies, upon France and its European neighbours.

- Crisis of the *Ancien Régime*: role of the monarchy, specifically Louis XVI; intellectual, political, social, financial and economic challenges
- Monarchy to republic: causes and significance of the Revolution; the 1791 Constitution; the fate of the monarchy; the terror; Robespierre; the Thermidorean reaction
- The political, social and economic impact of the Revolution; French revolutionary wars (1792–1799)
- Establishment of, nature of, and collapse of the Directory (1795–1799)
- Rise and rule of Napoleon (1799–1815); impact of Napoleon's domestic and foreign policies on France
- Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815); collapse of the Napoleonic Empire; military defeat; the Hundred Days