5.1 Contextualizing 18th-Century States

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 22 marks**

KEY WORDS Estates-General • Third Estate • privilege • national debt • revolution • coup

Objective

Build the skills to set the **context** for Unit 5 (about 1750–1815): growing world trade, Britain's rise, the French Revolution, Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna and the Romantic reaction.

You must be able to:

- describe the main developments in Europe from about 1750 to 1815
- explain how war, debt and new ideas led to revolution
- write context for a question about the French Revolution or Napoleon

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

The broad picture

development	what was true
world trade	Atlantic trade in sugar, tobacco, cotton and enslaved Africans made merchants and states rich
wars	Britain and France fought for colonies (Seven Years' War, 1756–63; American War of Independence, 1775–83)
debt	these wars left France deeply in debt
ideas	Enlightenment ideas of rights, consent and equality spread through print
revolution	the French Revolution (1789) ended absolute monarchy and the privileges of the nobles
Napoleon	from 1799 he ruled France and conquered much of Europe until 1815
reaction	the Congress of Vienna (1814–15) restored monarchs; Romantic artists praised feeling and the nation

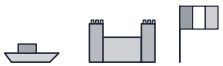
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War costs + an unfair tax system + bad harvests + new ideas = a crisis that the old government could not solve.

Answer shapes: a context sentence names a broad development, gives one example and links it to the topic.

2 Practice

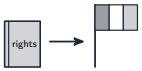
2.1 Identify two developments in Europe between 1750 and 1815. [2]



2.2 Explain how wars contributed to the financial crisis in France before 1789. [3]



2.3 Explain one way Enlightenment ideas contributed to the French Revolution. [3]



3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Read the source.

> "What is the Third Estate? Everything. What has it been until now in the political order? Nothing. What does it ask? To become something."

Abbé Sieyès, pamphlet, January 1789

(a) Identify what Sieyès says the Third Estate has been until now. [1]

"What is the Third Estate? Everything. What has it been until now in the political order? Nothing. What does it ask? To become something."
Sieyès, January 1789

(b) Explain what Sieyès meant by "Everything". [1]

(c) Explain one reason this pamphlet was popular in 1789. [1]

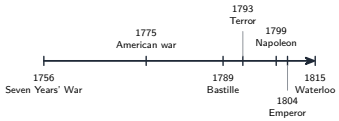
3.2 The timeline shows key events from 1756 to 1815.

(a) Identify the year the Bastille was stormed. [1]

(b) Explain how the American War of Independence affected France. [2]

(c) Explain why the king called the Estates-General in 1789. [2]

(d) Explain how Napoleon was able to take power in 1799. [3]



(e) Write a context paragraph for the question: "Why did revolution break out in France in 1789?" [3]

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