

# 5.1 Contextualizing 18th-Century States

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 12 marks**

## Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** for the crisis of the late eighteenth century.

**You must be able to:**

- name the fiscal, intellectual and social conditions of the crisis
- explain how war debt produced political conflict
- state what the Enlightenment supplied to critics of the state
- avoid narrating the Revolution instead of contextualising it

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ The conditions

Debt from prolonged war, a tax system that exempted the wealthiest, a body of theory grounding authority in consent, and a commercial class with wealth and no political standing.

### ■ Debt into conflict

Servicing war debt required new revenue; new revenue required either taxing the exempt or obtaining consent. Both routes forced a political question the crown had avoided.

### ■ What theory supplied

4.3's social contract gave critics a standard by which the existing arrangement could be judged illegitimate rather than merely inconvenient.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** Name three conditions of the late eighteenth-century crisis. [3]

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**2.2** Explain how war debt forced a political question. [2]

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**2.3** A crown must raise revenue and cannot tax the exempt.

(a) State its remaining option. [1]

(b) State the risk of taking it. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** A tax system exempting the wealthiest makes new revenue [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

A easy to raise

B obtainable only by taxing the exempt or seeking consent

C unnecessary

D automatic

**3.2** The social contract supplied critics with [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

A an army

B a standard of legitimacy

C revenue

D a monarchy

**3.3** A context paragraph lists three conditions with no consequences.

(a) State the fault. [1]

(b) Explain the fix. [2]

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