Notes Outline on the Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte

1) What was Napoleon’s family and educational background? How and when did he first come to the attention of his superiors and the French public?

2) Which event in 1795 saved “The Directory”? What was the result for Napoleon? How else did his life change in 1796?

3) Where was Napoleon’s first foreign military campaign in 1796? Why was Napoleon so popular with his troops? What was another campaign in 1798? Was it equally successful? Explain.

4) What is a *coup d’etat*? Why did Napoleon engage in a coup d’etat in 1799 and what was the final result of this?

5) What is a plebiscite? Why did Napoleon use this in 1800? What movements towards peace with which powers did Napoleon make between 1801 and 1802?

6) What is the major achievement of Napoleon that is still used today in France and many of its colonies? What were some of the other non-military achievements of Napoleon that made him popular with the French people?

7) What is a referendum? How did Napoleon use this in 1804? What did Napoleon and his first wife, Josephine, become? Why does this seem strange in the context of the French Revolution?
8) Why was Napoleon unable to invade Britain? What was the significance of the Battle of Trafalgar for the French and the British, both for the short and long term?

9) Explain which armies Napoleon defeated in which famous battles in 1805 and 1806. What was the result of the subsequent change to Europe? How did Napoleon seek to strengthen ties with his new allies?

10) What was remarkable about the Napoleonic empire as of 1811?

11) Explain three major mistakes that Napoleon made and the consequences of each mistake:
   First mistake:

   Second mistake:

   Third mistake:

12) How and by whom was Napoleon defeated in 1813? What happened to Napoleon as a result? Who became the ruler of France?

13) How did Napoleon return to power for “One Hundred Days”? Which battle in 1815 put a final end to Napoleon’s dreams of an empire? How did he spend the rest of his life and when did he die?