Notes on the first phase of the French Revolution

1) What was meant by the “ancien regime”? What was the primary cause of the French Revolution?

2) Prior to the French Revolution, society was divided into three “estates”. What is meant by that term? How can we define each of the following?
First Estate:

Second Estate:

Third Estate:

Which estate made up the largest percentage of the French population, was the poorest, and paid almost all the taxes?

3) List below some of the causes of the French Revolution starting with the most important cause.

Be sure to note the dates for all events related to the following questions:

4) Why was Louis XVI forced to call a meeting of the Estates General for the first time in 175 years? Why wasn’t the meeting successful?

5) Why did the Third Estate form a National Assembly and take the “Tennis Court Oath”?

6) What happened on July 14, 1789? Why did it happen? What is the significance of this day in French history and how is it commemorated?

7) Why did the “Great Fear” spread through France in July and August? Whose privileges were under attack?

8) What was the “Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen”? Why was it important in the French Revolution?
9) Why did Parisian market women march on Versailles on October 5? What was the significance of the events that subsequently happened?

10) How did the Catholic Church come under attack in 1790? What did it lose in the process?

11) What restrictions on royal absolutism did the king have to accept? What form did these take?

12) When the royal family tried to flee Paris, what happened? How did this affect the future of the monarchy?

13) How did a Legislative Assembly replace the National Assembly? How long did it last?

13) When did France declare war on Austria and Prussia? Why was France initially unsuccessful but later began winning battles against its enemies?

14) When a mob stormed the Tuileries Palace on August 10, 1792, what happened to the royal family? How did this mark a turning point in the Revolution?

Mark letters on the following timeline that show the correct sequence of the following events:

1789

1790-1792