1) What is the significance of The French Revolution in history?

2) Why did Louis XVI marry Marie Antoinette?

3) Why was the economic condition of France so poor during the reign of Louis XVI? How did this affect the common people?

4) Why was Louis XVI poorly suited to be king?

5) Which tradition did religion and science challenge with the Enlightenment?

6) Where did Enlightenment thinkers and authors meet in Paris?

7) Why was the Enlightenment dangerous to the aristocracy?

8) Why did Louis XVI provide financial aid to the American Revolution? What was the effect on France?

9) Why was Marie Antoinette so much criticized? How might this have affected public opinion of the monarchy?

Part 2

1) Why had conditions in France deteriorated in 1778 and 1789?

2) What happened when bread prices skyrocketed and bread supplies became scarce?

3) Who was Jacques Necker and why was he hired by Louis XVI?

4) What policy did Necker recommend to Louis XVI?

5) What was the “Estates General” and why did Louis XVI call them together in 1789?
6) What percent of the population made up the Third Estate? How do you know that the Third Estate had little political power?

7) Why was “The Tennis Court Oath” so significant? What developed from this?

8) What was the reaction of the people of Paris when the King’s troops surrounded the city in July 1789?

9) Why did the people of Paris storm the Bastille on July 14, 1789? What did that event symbolize?

10) What was the significance of “The Declaration of the Rights of Man”? What developed from that declaration?

11) What form of government was demanded by the National Assembly?

12) Who was Jean Paul Marat and how did he stir up revolutionary fervor?

13) Which group of people led the march on Versailles on October 5, 1789? What happened after they reached Versailles?

14) What was the significance of the royal family’s move to Paris?

Part 3

1) Who was called “the incorruptible”? What was the name of the party of radicals that he led?

2) Why did the royal family attempt to flee Paris on June 21, 1791? What happened? Why did this break the bond with the French people?

3) Who invented the guillotine? Why was it adopted by the National Assembly for executions?

4) Why did the National Assembly declare war on Austria in April 1792?
5) What prompted the citizens of Paris to attack the Tuileries Palace on August 10, 1792? What was the result?

6) Which parties were political rivals in the National Convention?

7) Who were the “sans culottes”? Why were they called by this name? What role did they play in the revolution?

8) Why was Georges Danton so important during a time when France faced possible military defeat by Austria and Prussia?

9) Why did the “sans culottes” engage in the October massacres? Who were killed? What was international reaction?

10) At the trial of Louis XVI which party called for the king’s life to be spared? Why did the Jacobins want to kill the king?

11) Why did Marat target the Girondins?

12) Why did Charlotte Corday assassinate Marat in 1793?

13) What was the fate of Marie Antoinette?

Part 4

1) By September 1793 why was France being torn apart?

2) Why was France isolated in the whole of Europe?

3) What do we call the period of violent repression begun by Robespierre and Danton?

4) Why were people being executed during this period?
5) Why was the Committee of Public Safety formed? Who led that Committee?

6) What limitations of human rights were initiated during The Reign of Terror.

7) How did The Committee of Public Safety attack the Church?

8) What happened in the Vendee and in other parts of France?

9) Who led the French army to victory over the British at Toulon?

10) What did Robespierre equate virtue with? Why did Danton object to this? What happened to Danton and his followers?

11) Which period is called “The Great Terror”? How many executions a month were taking place in Paris?

12) Why did Robespierre stage “The Festival of the Supreme Being”? What was the reaction of many to Robespierre?

13) In the hot month of “Thermidor”, what event at the National Convention led to Robespierre’s downfall?

14) How did The Reign of Terror end?

15) Which accomplishments of the French Revolution outlived Robespierre?

16) When was power again consolidated after the French Revolution?

17) How did the French Revolution change the course of Europe?

18) Was the use of violence justifiable in order to achieve the goals of the French Revolution?