

1B. Put the document in historical context.

The context : in 1792, on August 10th, the French monarchy was overthrown.

France was now in a state of civil war, which increased the tensions between Paris and London.

Here, the French Revolution is portrayed as Medusa, the gorgon of the Greek mythology. The snakes on her head are unmistakable. Compared to the pretty and benevolent Britannia, she is a nightmare. She exudes violence, aggressiveness. She is ugly. She is holding a pike with the head of an enemy (presumably an aristocrat). In the background, another aristocrat was hanged.

2. Describe the document and 3. Analyse it.

The title, "the contrast", puts stress on the intentions of the cartoonist: he wanted to praise England and to blame France. It is a manichean cartoon (England is good, France is evil).



The leaflet glorifies the English model based on peace and freedom, but also strength (Britannia is armed, and a lion lies on her side) and prosperity. The ship with the Red Ensign is a merchant ship.

The "Magna Carta" (1215) was the first English constitution, in which Parliament was mentioned. The leaflet wrongly suggests that British history had been peaceful for centuries.

The captions are utterly opposed. While the British model is made of political virtues, the French revolution seems to be based on all kinds of evils. Nothing is good in that revolution.

Note : "equality madness" is here a criticism of radical egalitarianism.

Satirical leaflet, England, 1792. © British Museum.

> In what ways were France and England utterly opposed in the aftermath of the French revolution?

The question is a rhetorical question : the answer is all too obvious, if we accept what is said in that leaflet. This leaflet was made to deter the British people from following the French revolution.

1A. Look at the question: what is expected ?  
The question often suggests a plan.