

2. Think about the context. Put the documents in historical context. The 1st doc. was published in 1794, but covers the events between 1789 (the storming of the Bastille) and 1794 (the fall of Robespierre and the end of Terror).

The French Revolution viewed from England: For or Against.
Doc 2 shows the execution of king Louis XVI on 21 January 1793.

❶ A “dazzling sunshine”. Mary Wollstonecraft narrates the destruction of the Bastille:

The imagination would languidly¹ portray this dazzling² sunshine, depressed by the recollection of the sinister events³, that have since clouded the bright beams⁴ [...]

The court⁵ by their criminal enterprises had entirely disordered the political machines, that sustained the old worn out⁶ government; which, worm-eaten in all its pillars, and rotten in all its joints, fell at the first shock — never to rise again. The destruction of the Bastille — that fortress of tyranny! —, which for two centuries had been the shame and terror of the metropolis, was the sentence of death of the old constitution⁷.

Mary WOLLSTONECRAFT, *An Historical and Moral View of the Origin and Progress of the French Revolution and the Effect it has Produced in Europe*, 1794.

3. Describe the document

3B. ... and in the background?

❷ “Martyrdom”: an English etching on the death of King Louis XVI (1793).

Louis XVI just before his execution with the caption, “The martyrdom of Louis XVI King of France, ‘I forgive my enemies. I die innocent!’” (British Museum).

4. Explain the document

3A. What do we see in the foreground?



➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain the English reactions for or against the French Revolution.

1. Look at the question: what is it about? What is expected from you? Most of the time, the question suggests a plan: in that case 1) for the FR (doc1), 2) against it (doc2).

1. Languidly: slowly, peacefully, without haste.
2. Dazzling: very bright, overwhelming.
3. The events that followed 1789, especially in the years 1792 to 1794!
4. The hope for a better future, that had been raised by the Revolution.
5. The royal court of king Louis XVI.
6. Worn out: exhausted.
7. Constitution: Here the French Ancien Régime.