DIRECTIONS: This essay is to be written at home and handed in next class. It will be graded as a quiz, and used in class.

Use the documents below to answer the 5 scaffolding questions. Each answer should be at least two complete sentences. After answering the scaffolding questions, you will be able to write an essay on the following topic:

The French Revolution was caused by many different factors.

Document #1
1. Describe the observations this traveler made about the life of the peasant in France between 1787 and 1789.

In the south of France there is a taille [tax on the land and its produce]. There is an injustice in levying (imposing & collecting) the amount each person must pay. Lands held by the nobility are taxed very little. Lands held by commoners are taxed heavily...

September 5, 1788: The poor people seem very poor indeed. The children are terribly ragged (wearing worn out clothing).

June 10, 1789: The lack of bread is terrible. Stories arrive every moment from the provinces of riots...

The price of bread has risen above the people's ability to pay. This causes great misery.

July 1789: I was joined by a poor woman who complained of the hard times. "The tailles and feudal dues [rents owed the lords] are crushing us," she said.

Document #2
2. Based on the chart, describe the conditions that existed in pre-revolutionary France.

This diagram illustrates the three estates in 1789 and the land each held during the Old Regime.

Document #3
3. Explain the changes the Third Estate demanded be made in the French government in the following cahiers.

That the king be forced to reform the abuses and tyranny of the lettre de cachet.
That every tax... be granted [by the Estates General] only for a limited time.
That the taille [a tax on land] be borne (carried) equally by all classes....
The meetings of the Estates General... shall be scheduled for definite times....
In order to assure the third estate the influence it deserves because of its numbers... its votes in the assembly should be taken by head....
Directions: Answer the essay question on a separate piece of paper.

Essay Task

Write an essay response. Your response should include an introduction (including a thesis), body, and conclusion. You must also provide OUTSIDE INFORMATION to support your main idea (thesis).

You must refer to AT LEAST 3 of the documents in your essay. (For example, Document #1, #2, #3)

Read the essay task carefully.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION was caused by many different factors.

Task

5. Describe which 3 actions/policies caused the French Revolution.

The French Revolution was caused by many factors. The most significant factors include:

1. The decline of the French economy,
2. The rise of the bourgeoisie,
3. The inability of the French government to deal with these problems.

The French economy was in decline due to the high cost of living, the lack of a strong military, and the growing divide between the rich and poor. The bourgeoisie, who were seeking greater political power, were frustrated with the government's inability to address these issues. The French government was unable to deal with these problems due to corruption and incompetence.

The French Revolution was a result of these factors, as well as a desire for change and reform. The revolution led to the rise of Napoleon, who would later become one of the most famous French leaders.

The French Revolution was a pivotal moment in history, and its causes are still debated today. However, it is clear that a combination of economic, social, and political factors played a role in its onset.

Document #4

4. Based on the following quote, explain the causes of the French Revolution according to the writer.

"The king and the entire court were confined to a never-ending feast in a never-ending palace (repose of worldly, the French king was never satisfied with his life)."

The king and the court were insulated from the problems faced by the French people. The king and his advisors were more concerned with their own comfort and welfare than with the welfare of the country. This led to a lack of reform and a disregard for the needs of the French people.

The French Revolution was caused by a combination of factors, including economic problems, social inequality, and political corruption. The revolution led to the fall of the French monarchy and the rise of a new government.