

Exercise walk-through

Contextualizing 18th-Century States ■ 5.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the fiscal, intellectual and social conditions of the crisis
- explain how war debt produced political conflict
- state what the Enlightenment supplied to critics of the state
- avoid narrating the Revolution instead of contextualising it

Method — The conditions

Debt from prolonged war, a tax system that exempted the wealthiest, a body of theory grounding authority in consent, and a commercial class with wealth and no political standing.

Method — Debt into conflict

Servicing war debt required new revenue; new revenue required either taxing the exempt or obtaining consent. Both routes forced a political question the crown had avoided.

Method — What theory supplied

4.3's social contract gave critics a standard by which the existing arrangement could be judged illegitimate rather than merely inconvenient.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name three conditions of the late eighteenth-century crisis.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

any three of: war debt; a tax system exempting the wealthiest; a theory grounding authority in consent; a commercial class without political standing **B3**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how war debt forced a political question.

Solution 2.2

Method: Debt into conflict

Worked steps

servicing the debt required new revenue **B1**, which could only come from taxing the exempt or obtaining consent — both political questions **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A crown must raise revenue and cannot tax the exempt.

- (a) State its remaining option.
- (b) State the risk of taking it.

Solution 2.3

Method: Debt into conflict

Worked steps

(a) to seek consent from a representative body **B1**. (b) summoning such a body opens the whole basis of authority to question **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A tax system exempting the wealthiest makes new revenue

- A** easy to raise
- B** obtainable only by taxing the exempt or seeking consent
- C** unnecessary
- D** automatic

Solution 3.1

Method: The conditions

- A easy to raise
- B obtainable only by taxing the exempt or seeking consent 
- C unnecessary
- D automatic

Worked steps

- B. the exemptions leave only those two routes.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The social contract supplied critics with

- A** an army
- B** a standard of legitimacy
- C** revenue
- D** a monarchy

Solution 3.2

Method: What theory supplied

A an army

B a standard of legitimacy 

C revenue

D a monarchy

Worked steps

B. consent becomes a test of legitimacy.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A context paragraph lists three conditions with no consequences.

- (a) State the fault.
- (b) Explain the fix.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) conditions without stated consequences explain nothing **B1**. (b) state what each made possible **B1**, which is the purpose of contextualising **B1**.