

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Three Estates of Pre-Revolutionary France

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The social structure of pre-revolutionary France consisted of three main estates: the First Estate (clergy), the Second Estate (nobility), and the Third Estate (common people). The clergy enjoyed privileges such as exemption from most taxes and played a role in providing spiritual guidance. The nobility held privileges like exemption from many taxes and served in high-ranking positions. The common people of the Third Estate faced heavy taxation and economic diversity.
2. The common people of the Third Estate in pre-revolutionary France faced grievances due to heavy taxation, economic hardship, and social inequality. They resented the clergy and nobility for their privileges and exemptions, and their grievances were exacerbated by Enlightenment ideas emphasizing equality and liberty.
3. The Estates-General was significant in pre-revolutionary France as it provided a platform for representatives of the three estates to discuss and propose solutions to the country's problems. It also became a symbol of the common people's demands for political change and equality. The convening of the Estates-General marked the beginning of the French Revolution.
4. The transformation of the Estates-General into the National Assembly in pre-revolutionary France signified a turning point in the course of the French Revolution. The National Assembly was formed by representatives of the Third Estate, who demanded a new constitution and political change. This transformation led to revolutionary events and profound changes in France's political landscape.

