Causes of the French Revolution:

1. Clergy - The First Estate
   - Liberal society can flourish with free commerce
   - Challenged the absolute right to rule

2. Nobility - The Second Estate
   - Population divided into three states
   - Appealed to bourgeoisie grievances

3. Commoners - The Third Estate (majority of population)
   - Age of Enlightenment
   - Population divided into three states

- The peasants and bourgeoisie were unhappy because they had to pay all the taxes
- Nobles were determined not to give up their tax concessions
- Need for tax reform
- Financial difficulties
- Government had large debts with heavy interest
- Extravagant spending on courts
- Over ambitious wars

- He preferred personal interests to court interests
- He was strongly influenced by his wife, Marie Antoinette
- King Louis XVI