Louis Philippe (The July Monarchy) 1830-1848

Note Structure (based on “France 1814-70: Monarchy, Republic and Empire”- Randell)

A. Summary of the period

The revolution of July 1830 brought to power Louis-Philippe and established a regime variously known as the July Monarchy, the Bourgeois Monarchy, or the Orleanist Monarchy. The wealthy middle class believed they had a monarch they could control though Louis Philippe was determined not to be a puppet. During this period France underwent the beginnings of an industrial revolution and for the first time the condition of the industrial masses became a political issue. Despite growing opposition to the regime the government refused to consider any major reform of the political system. Following a period of recession (1846-8) there was a revolution in Paris in 1848 which ended Louis Philippe’s rule and brought in the Second Republic.

B. The Regime Established p37-39

Use the text to expand on the following bullet points:

- Those who had brought Charles X down did not agree on what should take his place – what did the different groups want?

- Louis Philippe seemed to be obvious choice – why?
  - mention social connections
  - his revolutionary pedigree

- What kind of man did Louis Philippe seem to be? Include his good points and bad points P40-1

- There were major differences between the regimes of the Bourbons and the Orleanists – on what basis did Louis Philippe hold power? What symbolic changes were made? P42-3

- Few real changes made to the constitution – include details on
  - changes in franchise (voting qualifications) & electorate
  - impact of these on the French people

- True to say that few changes had been made?
- Who now held power?
C. The Regime Consolidated (p43-45)
Include: No early guarantee of long term survival (explain why) - reliance on National Guard (who were they?) to protect the regime - the King's own bravery - showing good sense in early days - good appointment in Guizot.

D. The fall of the Regime
a) Long term causes
(i) Basic weaknesses of the regime (p45-47)
Include: a) It could be argued that the fall was inevitable' - why was the Orleanist monarcy only a 'useful compromise'?
b) What were the alternatives that were available? (need details)
c) How successful had been the attempts by Louis Napoleon at seizing power in 1836 and 1840?

b) Attitudes & actions of Louis Philippe (p47-)
Include:
d) In what ways did the personality and life style of the king help to reduce his support?

3. Foreign policy (p50-3)[You should also refer to Cowie & Wolfson]
Include:
a. What seemed to be the basic conflict between the aims of the French people and those of Louis-Philippe?
b. Louis-Philippe wanted to follow a peaceful foreign policy - how did the situation over Belgium threaten this?
c. How did a crisis in the Near East in 1839-40 nearly involve France in a European war?
d. How would you describe relations between Britain & France between 1841-6?
e. How did the Spanish Marriages threaten Anglo-French relations?
f. According to Randall how important a factor was Louis Philippe's foreign policy in the downfall of his regime?

c) Domestic Policy (p53-6)
Include:
d) What was the attitude of Louis-Philippe towards the political system in France?
e) How strong was the demand for the extension of the vote?
f) There was little in the way of social reform 1830-48 - was this important?
g) What was the aim of the Reform Banquets & how did they lead to the downfall of the regime?

E. Summary of reign & conclusions
'The government was not overthrown, it was allowed to fall.' How accurate is this as an assessment?

Read the Conclusion p56-58. Identify the different conclusions drawn about the causes of the 1848 Revolution in France.

What do you consider to be the main factors in the downfall of the Orleanist Monarchy?