



**Task 3:** Use two highlighters to shade the sources below to indicate whether or not the writer thinks Robespierre was a hero or villain.

<p><b>Source A: an extract from one of Robespierre's speeches.</b></p> <p>'We want a country in which the government looks after the welfare of every individual ... one's duty is to punish traitors, to help the needy ... [and] defend the oppressed.'</p>	<p><b>Source B: a comment made by Parisian worker.</b></p> <p>'The bastard isn't satisfied with being the boss, he's got to be God as well!'</p>	<p><b>Source C: written by Bertrand Barere in 1832.</b></p> <p>'He was a man without personal ambition. His misfortune was to have aimed at a dictatorship which he believed was the only way to stop the spread of evil.'</p>
<p><b>Source D: written by Jerome Petion in 1791.</b></p> <p>'Robespierre is extremely touchy and suspicious. He sees plots and treason everywhere. He is intolerant of opposition. He never admits mistakes.'</p>	<p><b>Source E: written by George Rude, a biographer, in 1976.</b></p> <p>'The Revolution's outstanding leader, at every stage of its most creative years, and the first champion of democracy and the people's rights. This is his main claim to greatness.'</p>	<p><b>Source F: an extract from <i>The Times</i> newspaper in 1792.</b></p> <p>'Robespierre was bred a butcher. This may account for the calm with which he has brought such numbers to the block. No man has better talents to be the leader of the mob than this.'</p>
<p><b>Source G: a description of Robespierre from a government enquiry written after his execution.</b></p> <p>'A depraved monster of small talent.'</p>	<p><b>Source H: written by Richard Boston in 1987 for a British Newspaper.</b></p> <p>'There is general agreement that he was physically repulsive as well as being humourless, charmless, of mediocre intelligence, vicious, bigoted, cold, cruel, devious and spiteful.'</p>	<p><b>Source I: said by Lord Acton, a British historian in a lecture in the 1890s.</b></p> <p>'He had been the equal of emperors and kings: an army of 700,000 men obeyed his word; he controlled millions of secret service funds ... yet lived on a deputy's allowance of just 18 francs.'</p>

**Task 4:** Now that you have all of the evidence, finish Marisa Linton's article. Remember to:

- ✓ carefully craft the structure of the article
- ✓ write a balanced article
- ✓ use specific evidence
- ✓ pick language that makes the reader understand your argument easily
- ✓ use a formal, analytical tone.

### Teaching notes

This resource is based on Maria Linton's article from *History Today* 'Robespierre and the Terror' Volume 56 Issue 8 (August 2006). At the time of publication the entire article was available online without subscription at [www.historytoday.com/marisa-linton/robespierre-and-terror](http://www.historytoday.com/marisa-linton/robespierre-and-terror).

As an additional challenge / extension you could ask students to read the entire article and compare to their own piece of writing.