Imagine you have been asked to say a few words about Robespierre at a remembrance service. Remember, you need to be respectful! No matter what you think of him, you need to write something that paints him in a positive light. Use the fact file on the worksheet to help you start, but you need to also think about what others have said or written about him. Look at the sources on this task sheet. What do they tell you about him? You should aim to write around 150 - 200 words.

"Robespierre is extremely touchy and suspicious" (Mayor of Paris 1791)
"The bastard isn't satisfied with being the boss, he's got to be God as well" (a sans-culottes)
"Robespierre was bred a butcher..." (from the London Times)
"...dictatorship...he believed was the only way to stop the spread of evil." (Bertrand Barere 1832, he sat on the Committee with Robespierre)
"a depraved monster of small talent" (a government enquiry)
"...physically repulsive...humourless" (British newspaper, 1987)
He had been the equal of emperors and kings...he was the most hateful character in history" (Lord Acton, British historian, 1890s)

Robespierre: "One's duty is to punish traitors, to help the needy, respect the weak, defend the oppressed, do good to one's neighbour and behave justly." "Terror is nothing but quick and hard justice." "I detest the death penalty." "...in a revolution the state is at war, it doesn't have to follow all the laws."

1) Explain in a paragraph or two, what happened in France following the execution of King Louis.
2) What were the main causes of the Reign of Terror?
3) Approximately what percentage of those guillotined were nobles and clergy?
4) Look at sources 1 - 5 and at the information on the Committee for Public Safety. Do you think the system of Tribunals in France was fair? Explain why, giving examples from each source.
5) Using sources 4 and 5, and the information on the Terror continuing, what examples of particular 'horrors' are there? Explain at least 3, in full.
6) How and why do you think the Terror came to an end?
7) Was Robespierre to blame for the Terror? Answer in a short paragraph, using the sources, the information and the fact file on Robespierre.
France in 1795 (an overview)

After the Terror ended in 1794, the constitution changed yet again. The JACOBINS and the SANS-CULLOTTES were forced out of power and Politicians tried to find a moderate form of government that French people would support. It was decided that there should be five directors who would see that laws were carried out. However the new government, the Directory, had serious problems to deal with and by 1798 were in serious trouble. They had reached crisis point...

The government were running out of money - the foreign wars they were fighting were costly.

France’s armies had been badly defeated in wars in Italy.

CRISIS!

There were severe food shortages

There were plots from royalists and extreme revolutionaries.

As things got worse for the Directory in France, one of the Directors (government leaders) began to look round for a general who could control France. Throughout History army generals have tried to take control of governments in crisis, and Robespierre had even warned of a 'coup d'état' in 1792 when he said: "Put yourself on guard against your generals, or a strong citizen might gain power and one day become your master."

The choice fell on Napoleon Bonaparte - one of France's most successful military generals. (You will learn more about him next lesson) He had proved himself a brilliant general in wars across Europe and Africa and this had made him famous and popular in France. In 1799, Napoleon secretly left his armies who were still fighting in Egypt for France. When he landed, people of all opinions welcomed him. On 11th November 1799, Napoleon seized power.

A 'coup d'état' is when a military government takes over a country illegally.

Questions.
1) Write your own overview of France's political problems between 1795 and 1799. You should write about a page including details of:
   - The problems faced by the Directory
   - What was decided to solve the problems

2) What do you think Robespierre meant when he warned: "Put yourself on guard against your generals..."?

3) Explain the key terms 'Directory' and 'Coup d'état'.