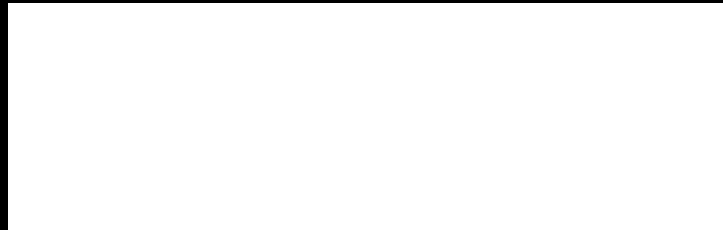


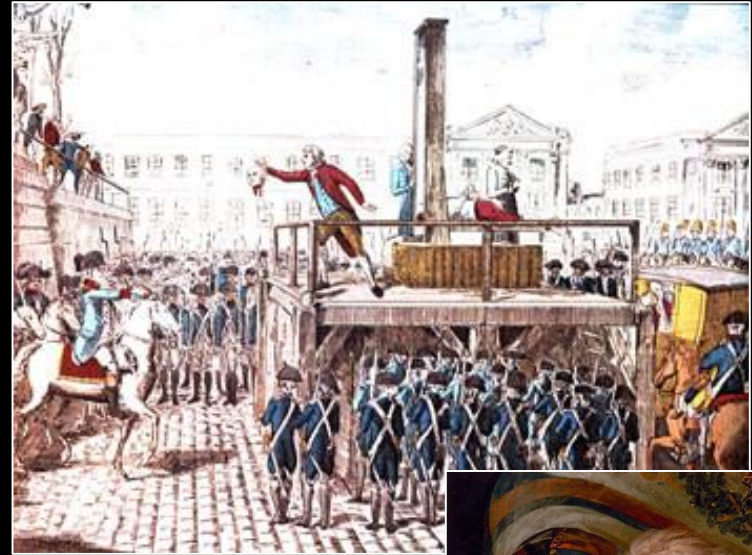
Key Figures: Napoleon Bonaparte

- LO1: To examine the qualities of Napoleon, one of the key historical figures of the period we will study
- LO2: To consider why the revolution and Napoleon were seen as a threat by Great Britain



Context

- Following the outbreak of revolution France suffered enormous political instability.
- It also fought several wars against the monarchies of Europe.
- Napoleon Bonaparte eventually emerged as the ruler of France.



Origins:

- He was born in Ajaccio, Corsica in 1769. At the time Corsica was a poor backwater. It had only recently been taken over by France – there were several revolts against French rule.
- Napoleon's family were part of the relatively poor Corsican nobility.
- Napoleon was sent to the French military school at Brienne in the 1770s.



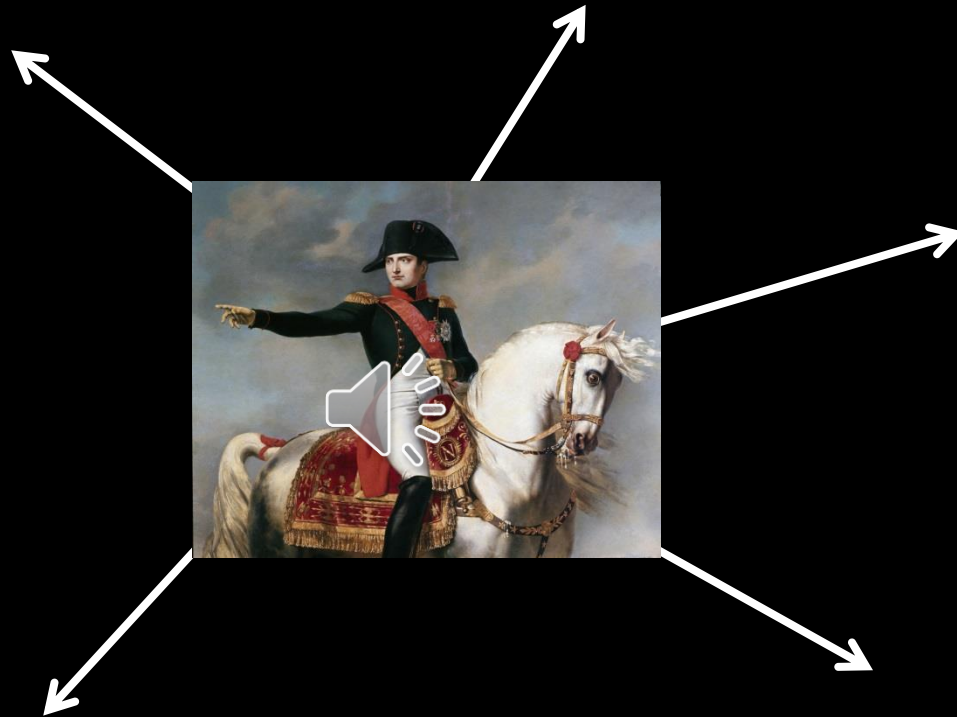
Achievements:

- Became first Consul of France in 1800, and Emperor in 1804.
- Became the commander of the Grand Armee – at its peak upwards of 500,000 men.
- Transformed France into the most powerful and effectively governed state in Europe.

Using the boxes answer the following questions, explaining your reasoning:

1. How would you summarise Napoleon's origins? Refer to evidence to support your answer.
2. How could we explain Napoleon's enormous achievements given his humble origins?

How did he do it?



Use the sources to build a profile of Napoleon's qualities. Remember the key is to *explain* how these qualities helped elevate him to the pinnacle of power providing supporting evidence.

The threat to Britain?

- The focus of the A-Level course is the impact on Britain of four key conflicts.
- Using your knowledge from the previous lesson and today. Why would revolutionary and then Napoleonic France be seen as a threat to Britain?

