



KING ETHELRED'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Established in 978 (ish)

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ECONOMICS, CREATIVE ACCOUNTANCY
AND THE BURSAR'S NERVES

WHY THE FRENCH ARE ALWAYS REVOLTING

Being an inquiry into a joke first told in Oz, a wedding of 1002, an invoice of 1778, an island that declined to join in, and the events of this week; with a title the Department has had to amend in every chapter



A departmental research thesis prepared under the College Fellowship Ordinance
(Complaints, the Making Thereof, and Who Pays) 1588

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*Fortitudine.
Ingenio.
Tea and biscuits.*



ABSTRACT

For ten days in October 2026 the high-school students of France blockaded their schools and marched, over teacher shortages, crowded classes and crumbling buildings. On Thursday 8 October an estimated twenty-five thousand of them filled the Place de la Bastille, and some climbed the column that commemorates the revolution of 1830.[1] The Bursar, reading the report over breakfast, remarked that the French were always revolting, and the Senior Common Room supplied the punchline. This paper began as an attempt to establish whether his remark was true. It has not survived contact with the evidence in its original form, and the Department has amended its own title at the end of every chapter, which it records as a first.

The joke is younger than supposed: its first known telling is in an American children's book of 1904, and it was not attached to Louis XVI until 1963.[2,3] The French habit is older than supposed: a peasant rising in 1358, after a student strike over a tavern bill in 1229, and barricades of barrels in 1588.[53,13,14] The College's own part in the matter is larger than it would like: its namesake married a Norman duke's sister in 1002, and the marriage later gave William the Conqueror the basis of his claim.[6,7] Jersey, proposed as a control group for being near France and not French, rioted in 1769 and reformed its constitution as a result.[9]

The paper's spine is an invoice. France paid to help Americans revolt against Britain; the debt contributed to a fiscal crisis that obliged the King to summon the Estates-General for the first time since 1614; and the Americans then resumed trading with Britain.[5] The Department follows the invoice to 2026, where a government again finds itself between protesters in the street and a debt it cannot easily enlarge.[1]

Research status. The joke's history, the medieval and modern events, the figures, the statements of ministers and students and the poll are real and referenced; where a source corrects a popular belief, the paper follows the source. The College, its Department, the Revolt Classification Office, the Bursar's invoices and every finding are fiction. The protests of this month have injured hundreds of people, most of them teenagers; the paper reports that plainly and does not joke about it. Nor does it joke about the Terror. The College's Unrest Impact Index and its scores are the College's own judgement, by the method set out in Appendix E; the events it scores are real. Its jokes are at the expense of ministers' announcements, budgets, the Bursar and the College.

Keywords: France, revolt, barricade, Estates-General, debt, Jersey, Emma of Normandy, the 1904 pun, students, Return to Sender.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department thanks the Bursar, whose remark began this paper and who has asked that it not be quoted back to him. It has been. He has also asked, on learning of the College's part in 1066, whether Æthelred's marriage settlement contained an indemnity. Nobody has had the courage to tell him what happened in 1066.

Mrs Enid Partridge of the Senior Common Room supplied the punchline, and later the ruling on cake in Chapter 5. She would like it known that she supplied the cake as well.

Miss Honoria Catchpole of the Æthelred Library of Useful Numbers corrected the Department's dates twice, on the origin of the joke and on the origin of the barricade, and has filed the Department's first draft under Folklore.

Professor Sir Peregrine Fortescue applied his rule, that a place belongs to the people who live in it, to Jersey, and was told by Jersey that it does not need the College's rule, having its own since 1204.

Mr Arthur Stobbs, Clerk of Works, assessed the barricade as a structure in Chapter 6 and has asked that nobody in the College take up paving stones, for any purpose, ever.

Major (Retd.) Alistair MacTavish assessed the barricade against his maxim without being asked, and gave it high marks for not moving.

The Revolt Classification Office, established for this paper, was abolished three times in the course of it, and its staff have asked to be returned to the Registry.

Statement on nomenclature. 'Revolt' is used in both its senses and the Department has tried to make clear which. 'The French' means the people of France, not the Normans, who were Northmen in France, a distinction the College's paper on 1066 sets out at length. 'Jersey' means the Bailiwick of Jersey, a Crown Dependency, which is not part of the United Kingdom; Jersey has asked the College to say so, and it has. 'This week' means the week ending 9 October 2026.

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NOMENCLATURE

Symbol	Meaning
Barricade	From the French barrique, a barrel. A wall built in a night, in the road, from what was to hand
Cahiers de doléances	Books of grievances. Compiled for the Estates-General in 1789; compiled again in 2018-19
Code of 1771	Jersey's reform after the Corn Riots: lawmaking taken from the Royal Court and given to the States
Crown Dependency	What Jersey is. Not part of the United Kingdom. Loyal to the Crown since 1204, by its own decision
Estates-General	The assembly of clergy, nobles and commons. Did not meet between 1614 and 1789
Gilets jaunes	The yellow vests: weekly protests from 17 November 2018 to 28 June 2020, begun over fuel tax
Jacquerie	The peasant rising of 1358, from the nobles' sneer for a peasant, 'Jacques Bonhomme'
Livre	The French pound before 1795. The Crown owed between 8 and 12 billion of them by 1789
Return to Sender	The Bursar's stamp. Applied to invoices that come back. Worn out by Chapter 7
Revolting	(1) In revolt. (2) Disgusting. The pun on the two is first recorded in Oz, in 1904
Revolt Classification Office	Established for this paper; abolished in Chapters 2, 4 and 9. Fiction
This week	The tenth day of the school protests, Thursday 8 October 2026, and the days either side

1 THE REMARK, AND THE JOKE

1.1 The remark

On the morning of Friday 9 October 2026 the Bursar read in his newspaper that the high-school students of France were in the tenth day of protests over teacher shortages, crowded classes and dilapidated buildings; that more than seventy-one thousand had marched the day before; that schools were blockaded from Lille to Marseille; and that the government was promising three thousand substitute teachers by Tuesday.[1] He put the paper down and said that the French were always revolting. Mrs Partridge, pouring, said: 'You can say that again.' The Bursar did not, and the Department was asked to find out whether he had been right.

The remark contains two claims and a pun. The first claim is that the French revolt often. The second, carried by 'always', is that they revolt more often than other people, which is a comparison and needs a control group. The pun is that 'revolting' also means disgusting, and Mrs Partridge's reply is the traditional one. The Department has examined all three, beginning with the pun, because it was the easiest and because Miss Catchpole had already found that the Bursar had it wrong.

1.2 The joke, traced

The joke is usually told as an exchange between a messenger and Louis XVI on the eve of the Revolution. Louis never heard it. Its first known appearance is in L. Frank Baum's *The Marvelous Land of Oz* of 1904, in which General Jinjur's army of girls advances on the Emerald City and its General tells the Guardian of the Gates: 'We are revolting!' He replies: 'You don't look it.' [2,3] The joke then crossed to newspapers, to a comic strip and to a comic song, and reached Louis XVI only in 1963, when Allan Sherman put it in a song about him, a hundred and seventy years after his death.[2] Table 1.1 gives the sequence as Quote Investigator established it.

Year	Where	The reply
1904	L. Frank Baum, <i>The Marvelous Land of Oz</i> : an army of girls	"You don't look it"
1955	The Times Record, Troy, New York: a conversation about bullfighting	"That's the second most popular sport"
1957	Walt Kelly, <i>Pogo</i>	"Your king loves you anyway"
1958	The Ithaca Journal, the form now usual	"Revolting? They're disgusting"
1963	Allan Sherman, "You Went the Wrong Way, Old King Louie": Louis XVI at last	"Louie, you're pretty revolting yourself"
1964	The Wizard of Id	"You can say THAT again"
1981	Mel Brooks, <i>History of the World, Part I</i>	"They stink on ice!"

Table 1.1: The pun on 'revolting', by first known appearance. Quote Investigator, 2017, and Baum's text. References 2, 3.

The Department observes that the joke's first target was an army of young women demanding a say in the running of a city, that its first king was American and fictional, and that it reached a real French king only by way of an American comedian. Mrs Partridge's reply, 'You can say that again', is the Wizard of Id's, of 1964.[2] She has asked that her contribution be recorded as a citation, not a borrowing.

1.3 Method

To test the claims, the Department established a Revolt Classification Office, with forms. The Office's first task was to distinguish a revolution from an uprising, an uprising from a riot, a riot from a strike, a strike from a demonstration, and a demonstration from an unusually firm lunch break. Its forms are in Appendix C. They were overtaken by events in every chapter, and the Office was abolished three times. Each chapter closes with a College finding, and, where the evidence requires, an amendment to this paper's title. The Department expected to amend it once.

College finding 1. The joke is American, began with an army of girls, and was attached to Louis XVI in 1963. The Bursar was right to make it and wrong to attribute it. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Always Revolting, a Remark First Made in Oz

2 BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

2.1 Jacques

The French habit is a great deal older than 1789. In the early summer of 1358, with the king a prisoner in England after Poitiers, the peasants of the Oise valley north of Paris rose against the nobility, and were put down after more than two months of violence. The rising was called the *Jacquerie*, because the nobles called a peasant 'Jacques', or 'Jacques Bonhomme', after the padded surplice the peasants wore.[13] The name stuck to the rising and then to risings in general. The Department notes that the first great French revolt is named after an insult about clothing, and that the *gilets jaunes* of 2018 named themselves after a garment, which suggests the point has been taken.

2.2 Barrels

The word *barricade* comes from *barrique*, a barrel.[14] On 12 May 1588, the Day of the Barricades, the Catholic Holy League in Paris filled barrels with stone and earth, stretched chains across the street corners, and so held the city against the troops of Henri III, who left it.[14,15] The chains, a contemporary noted, 'appeared suddenly at each point', which the Department takes to mean that they had been kept somewhere convenient for some time.[15] A second Day of the Barricades followed in 1648, during the *Fronde*, and barricades have been 'a feature of the French Revolution and of every revolutionary moment of tension since'.[15]

The Department had intended to state that the barricade was invented in Paris in 1588. Miss Catchpole has corrected it. The origins of the barricade, her source says, are 'often erroneously traced' to that day; barricades were 'neither exclusively French nor exclusively modern', and the last Greek soldiers on the Acropolis used them against the Persians in 480 BC.[14] The French did not invent the barricade. They named it, which in the Department's experience is how most things come to be credited.

The College's own Fellowship Ordinance is also dated 1588. The Department has checked, and the two events are unconnected, the Ordinance having been made in Upper Piddlington in a spirit of calm. The Trebuchet Research Group has asked whether a barrel filled with stone and earth could be thrown, and has been told that it is not the point. It has since learned that the *Fronde* of 1648 took its name from the French for a slingshot, and regards it as the only French rising named after a trebuchet in its infancy.[51]

2.3 Bills, mallets and stamped paper

The earliest entry on the College's Index is not a revolt but a strike, and it is in the College's own line of business. In February 1229, at the end of the Paris carnival, students disputed the bill for some sweet wine at a tavern in the suburb of Saint-Marcel, were thrown out, and came back the next day, Ash Wednesday, with clubs.[53] The regent, Blanche of Castile, demanded retribution, and several students were killed when her guards put down the riot. The University struck from 27 March: lectures stopped, and students left for Reims, Toulouse and Oxford. The strike lasted two years. It ended on 13 April 1231, when Pope Gregory IX, a former student of the University, issued the bull *Parens scientiarum*, which allowed it to suspend lectures for provocations ranging from 'monstrous injury or offense' to the rent of lodgings.[53] The Bursar notes that the first entry on the Index began with a disputed bill, and that on this occasion it was the customer who disputed it.

The rest of the record before 1789 is mostly about tax. In 1380 Charles V, dying, repealed all the royal taxes at his confessor's suggestion, to prepare his soul; they were reimposed, and in 1382 Rouen rose in the *Harelle*, from the old cry of 'haro', and Paris a few days later.[54] The Parisians found a large store of iron mallets at the Place de Grève, and Froissart named them the *Maillotins* after it.[54] The Department notes that the mallets, like the chains of 1588, had been kept somewhere convenient, and the Bursar has asked that nobody suggest a repeal to him on his deathbed. In 1413 the butchers of Paris, under Simon Caboche, held the city for some months on behalf of

the Duke of Burgundy, until the revolt was put down.[55] Mrs Partridge has asked that the Cabochiens be recorded as a revolt of the suppliers, and not of the kitchen.

Salt came next. A decree of 1541 extended the salt tax, the gabelle, to the salt-making country of Angoumois and Saintonge, where salt had been freely traded; in 1548 the Pitauds rose some twenty thousand strong, and at Bordeaux twenty salt-tax collectors were killed, among them the lieutenant governor.[56] The repression was severe, and some 140 people were sentenced to death. In June 1549 the tax was abolished in those provinces, which paid the King a lump sum to be excused it for ever.[56,57] The Bursar regards a lump sum to be excused a tax for ever as the only sound arrangement in this paper, and has written to the Treasury asking for a quotation.

The Croquants rose against taxes in 1594, 1624 and 1637, and the third rising ended in a general amnesty. Their name, one chronicler explained, came from the rich and the tax collectors, who were chewing them up as snacks; the croquants then turned it on the rich.[58] Mrs Partridge confirms that a croquant is something crunchy, and that it is poor policy to annoy one's snacks. In 1675 a new duty on papier timbré, the stamped paper required for wills, contracts and records, was levied to pay for Louis XIV's war against the Dutch, and Brittany rose; in Lower Brittany the rebels were the Bonnets rouges, after their caps, and the repression was harsh enough for Victor Hugo, in 1846, to recall the peasants it hanged.[59] In 2013 a Breton movement against a new tax on lorries called itself the Bonnets rouges again, and destroyed hundreds of the radar posts that were to enforce it.[59] The Bursar, whose Return to Sender stamp is the only stamp in the College, has read the account of 1675 twice and put the stamp in a drawer.

The Revolt Classification Office classified the Jacquerie as an uprising and the Day of the Barricades as a lane closure, and submitted the second to the Bursar for a permit fee. On learning that the King had left Paris rather than pay it, the Office was abolished for the first time, by its own Department, which felt it had missed something.

College finding 2. The French have revolted for at least six and a half centuries, mostly about tax, gave the barricade its name, and did not invent it. 'Always' is withdrawn in favour of 'frequently'. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Since 1358, with Barrels

3 1066, AND A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3.1 The objection

The Department's draft cited 1066 as the earliest case of the French exporting their difficulties to Britain. The Department of Defensive Engineering objected at once. William was Duke of Normandy, and the Normans were not French: they were Northmen who had taken a slice of northern France and been confirmed in it by a Frankish king who could not get them out.[4] The College's paper on 1066 sets this out at length and with very little affection. 1066 was not a French revolt. It was not French, and it was not a revolt.

3.2 The disclosure

Further inquiry revealed a more troubling connection. Viking raids on England were often based in Normandy, and King Æthelred, the College's namesake, tried to deal with its duke, Richard II, by having him captured, bound and brought to England. The English were not prepared for the speed of the Norman cavalry and were, in the words of the record, 'utterly defeated'.[6,7] Æthelred then tried the other method. In 1002 he married Richard's sister, Emma.[7]

Emma was formidable. English Heritage calls her the kingmaker: she campaigned for her son Edward to be named heir over his elder half-brothers, and when Æthelred died during the Danish invasion of 1016 she negotiated her own marriage to the invader, Cnut, keeping her children in the succession.[8] Edward the Confessor became king, and when he died childless in 1066 the claimants included her brother's grandson, William of Normandy. The marriage of 1002, in the words of one account, 'later gave his grandson, William the Conqueror, the basis of his claim to the throne of England'.[6] When the Danes drove him out in 1013, Æthelred went to Normandy, to his wife's brother.[6]



Figure 3.1: The wedding of 1002, with the bride's brother in attendance and the kidnapping not mentioned. The Department's reconstruction.

The College cannot reasonably attribute the Conquest to one wedding, and does not: a claim is not a right, and William's was contested.[4] It can, however, observe that the family introductions were made considerably earlier than previously disclosed, by the College's own namesake, after he had tried to kidnap the bride's brother and lost. The family tree is in Appendix B. The Bursar has asked whether the marriage settlement contained an indemnity, and stamped the wedding Return to Sender; he has been told that the bride did not come back, but that her family did, in 1066. Professor Widdowson-Bligh, asked whether sixty-four years between a wedding and a conquest was a long time, replied: 'It is a generation and a half.'

College finding 3. 1066 is withdrawn as evidence. The College's namesake is entered in the record as having made the introductions. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Except in 1066, Which Was Norman and Partly Ours

4 JERSEY, THE CONTROL GROUP

4.1 The design

A claim that the French revolt more than other people requires other people, and the Department sought a control: a population as close to France as possible, sharing its history, its law and some of its language, which had not become French. There is one. Jersey lies within sight of the Normandy coast. It was part of the duchy of Normandy, and so came under the English Crown with William in 1066. When King John lost continental Normandy to Philippe-Auguste of France in 1204, the people of Jersey 'made the decision to remain loyal to the English Crown', and were granted rights and privileges in return, confirmed since in royal charters.[10]

The Department wrote to the island to propose it as a control group, describing it in passing as British. Jersey replied that it is not part of the United Kingdom, is not represented in Parliament, and is not legislated for by Parliament without its consent; that the United Kingdom answers for its defence and, to some extent, its foreign affairs, and consults it first; and that it is a Crown Dependency.[10] This was an unnecessarily thorough answer to a rhetorical question, and the Department has corrected its nomenclature. Professor Fortescue offered to apply his rule, that a place belongs to the people who live in it, and was told that Jersey had applied it itself, in 1204, without assistance.

4.2 The result

The hypothesis was that an island which declined to become French would have declined the French habit too. It had not. In the eighteenth century Jersey suffered 'bouts of unrest, culminating in the Corn Riots of 1769'.[9] The spark was a shortage of corn, aggravated by corruption in the ruling families under an authoritarian Lieutenant Bailiff, Charles Lemprière, and behind it lay the old quarrel over which of two bodies, the States or the Royal Court, made the island's laws, and resentment of the feudal dues of the seigneurs. On 28 September 1769 men from the northern parishes marched into St Helier and broke into the Royal Court 'in a threatening manner'.[9]

What followed was, in the Department's view, the most instructive passage in the island's record. The States retreated to Elizabeth Castle and called on the Privy Council in London for help 'under false pretences'. The Council sent five companies of the Royal Scots, who arrived, looked into the matter, and 'discovered the islanders' grievances'.[9] The Crown then issued the Code of 1771, which separated the island's courts from its legislature, codified its laws and took lawmaking away from the Royal Court. The price of wheat and the seigneurs' privileges were not abolished; the collection of Crown revenues was tightened instead.[9] The rioters got a constitution, which is more than they asked for and less than they wanted.

Mrs Partridge, told that the island had risen over the price of corn, said that a revolt over bread is not a revolt but a review of the catering, and that the Senior Common Room has had several. The Bursar asked who paid for five companies of the Royal Scots sent under false pretences, was told that it was the Crown, and stamped the account Return to Sender, the sender being in this case a castle. The Revolt Classification Office, re-established for the purpose, classified the Corn Riots as a riot; the Code of 1771 then obliged it to reclassify them as constitutional reform, and the Office was abolished for the second time, on the ground that Jersey had classified itself.

College finding 4. The control group has failed. Distance from Paris is not the variable. Bread is; and what keeps a revolt from becoming a revolution is a government that, when its soldiers discover the grievance, does something about it. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Except in 1066, and So Is Jersey, Which Is Not French and Not British

5 THE INVOICE, 1778 TO 1789

5.1 The order

In 1778 France entered the American War of Independence on the side of the colonists, and its help was, in the words of Swansea University's historians, 'crucial'.^[5] The Department, whose interest is in who pays, notes three things about the arrangement. It was paid for by borrowing: Jacques Necker, finance minister from 1777 to 1781, 'largely funded France's war effort through loans'. It came on top of the debts of the Seven Years' War. And the return on it was nil: King Louis XVI's 'hopes that this alliance would lead to preferential trading rights after the war were dashed as the new American Republic renewed its trading links with Britain'.^[5] France paid for the revolt, and the customer went back to the previous supplier.

The war's reach extended to the Channel. On 6 January 1781 a French force of some fourteen hundred men landed on Jersey, the island that had declined to become French in 1204, and took St Helier while it slept. They found the island's governor, Major Moses Corbet, in bed, took him to the Royal Court House, persuaded him that thousands of French troops held the island, and required him to sign a capitulation. Corbet replied that as a prisoner he had no authority and that anything he signed would 'be of no avail', and then signed it to spare the town.^[11] The garrison, which had not been asked, attacked under Major Francis Peirson and defeated the invaders that morning. Both commanders were killed.^[11] The Bursar has entered the expedition as a second overseas expense with no return, and Jersey has asked him to withdraw the implication that a successful one would have been a return.



Figure 5.1: St Helier, 6 January 1781. The governor, in his nightshirt, signs a surrender he has just explained is of no avail. The Department's reconstruction.

5.2 The bill

By 1789 the Crown's debt stood at between eight and twelve billion livres. Serving it consumed a rising share of revenue, and worries about France's creditworthiness meant that new loans came only at higher interest.^[5] The Department is careful here, and Swansea's historians are more careful still: the war did not alone bankrupt the monarchy. France's taxes had been unequal and inefficient for the whole century, the nobility and the Church being largely exempt; there had been bad harvests in the 1770s and again in the late 1780s; and bread prices rose while wages fell.^[5] The American war contributed. It is the item on the bill that the Department, being the Bursar's department, finds the most interesting, because it was an expense incurred on behalf of somebody else's revolution. Miss Catchpole has entered the debt as two figures, eight billion and twelve, filed facing one another, and has declined to choose, the Library not being a treasury; the Bursar has chosen twelve, as a precaution.

Bread had been tried before. In September 1774 Louis XVI's new controller-general, Turgot, abolished the police regulation of the grain trade and made it free; the next spring the reserves ran out before the harvest, prices rose, and from April to May 1775 riots spread across the north, east and west of the kingdom. They were called the Flour War, and they subsided when Turgot im-

posed controls on the price of wheat and sent troops.[27] The Department records a market reform reversed within eight months, and the first full run of the announcement cycle described in Chapter 7.

Item	Paid by	Return
Aid to the American revolutionaries, 1778-83	France, largely on loans	Independence, for the Americans
Preferential trade with the new Republic	expected	none: the Republic resumed trade with Britain
The landing on Jersey, 1781	France	none; Jersey disputes the word
Interest on the debt, to 1789	France, at rising rates	more debt
The Estates-General, 1789	the King, out of necessity	see Chapter 6

Table 5.1: *The invoice. The Bursar's card for the American war, from Swansea University's study guide and the record of the Battle of Jersey. Every line is stamped Return to Sender. References 5, 11.*

5.3 The complaints procedure

In 1787 the finance minister Calonne proposed reforms, and, to reassure the lenders, a council of notables to approve them. The notables refused, and named political reform as their price; Calonne was dismissed. His successor, Brienne, tried the Parlement of Paris, which refused to register the reforms and demanded political change too, and the King exiled the Parlement. Brienne was dismissed, Necker was recalled, and Necker persuaded the King to call the Estates-General, which 'had not met since 1614'. [5] Each estate drew up books of grievances, the cahiers de doléances, for its deputies to carry. [5,19] The Department, which administers the College's complaints procedure, observes that France convened its own once in a hundred and seventy-five years, and that when it did, everybody had a list.

5.4 The cake

Mrs Partridge has asked that the record on cake be corrected. 'Let them eat cake' is a translation of 'qu'ils mangent de la brioche', which Jean-Jacques Rousseau put in his Confessions in 1765, attributing it to 'a great princess', when Marie Antoinette was nine years old and had never been to France; it was not attached to her until decades after her death, and there is no evidence that she ever said it. [12] Like the pun of Chapter 1, the remark history gives to the eve of the Revolution was made by somebody else, earlier, about something different. Mrs Partridge's further ruling is that brioche is not cake, that nobody short of bread is short of it because they have overlooked the brioche, and that the remark would have been revolting in either sense.

Louis XVI, for his part, had been encouraged from childhood in locksmithing, 'seen as a useful pursuit for a child'. [22] The Department notes, as engineers, that he could open almost anything except the accounts.

College finding 5. The Revolution was not caused by the American war, but the American war is on the bill. France paid for one revolution abroad and received the next at home, carriage forward. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Partly on Credit, Except in 1066, and So Is Jersey

6 THE BARRICADE, AS A STRUCTURE

Assessed by the Department of Civil, Siege and Unnecessarily Robust Engineering at the Department's request, with notes by Mr Stobbs and the Major. It misses the political point throughout, on purpose.

6.1 Materials

A barricade is a field fortification built in a night, in a street, from whatever the street contains. The 1588 pattern used barrels filled with stone and earth, and chains across the corners.[14] The nineteenth century used the street itself: in the narrow, crowded streets of central and eastern Paris the residents 'had taken up pavement stones and blocked the narrow streets with barricades, which had to be dislodged by the army', and between 1830 and 1848 there were seven armed uprisings in which they did so.[16] Mr Stobbs, shown the method, said that a paving stone is laid to stay laid, that lifting one is an hour's work with a bar, and that lifting a street's worth in a night is a labour force he would not mind having on the Lawn's edging. He then withdrew the remark, on reflection. The Department, its Classification Office being abolished at the time, referred the barricade to Estates for a class. Mr Stobbs refused it, with reasons.

The best-known of those uprisings was not the largest. In June 1832 the funeral of General Lamarque, a critic of the monarchy, became a rising of some three thousand republicans against thirty thousand troops, which was suppressed in two days.[28] Victor Hugo set the barricades of *Les Misérables* in it, and that is where most English readers have met the barricade, and the Department, which had not read the book either, includes itself.

6.2 The response

The state's engineering answer came in the 1850s and 1860s, when Baron Haussmann cut wide boulevards through the old city. Haussmann's critics said that 'the real purpose of Haussmann's boulevards was to make it easier for the army to manoeuvre and suppress armed uprisings', on the ground that a barricade can close a lane but not an avenue; the Department notes that this is the critics' account and that the boulevards had other purposes, including light, air and drains.[16] The paving stones remained. In May 1968 the students of Paris built barricades 'out of whatever was at hand' and threw paving stones at the police, and the movement's best-known slogan was 'Sous les pavés, la plage!', under the paving stones, the beach.[17] It was coined by a student activist with the help of a public relations man.[17] The Department records that the most famous line of the most famous French revolt of the last century was drafted with professional assistance.

The boulevards were tested in 1871. After the war with Prussia the people of Paris set up the Commune, which governed the city from 18 March to 28 May; a barricade went up on its first day. The army retook Paris street by street in the last week of May, the Bloody Week. Between 987 and 1,162 soldiers were killed, and estimates of the Communards killed run from about 6,700 to some 20,000.[29] The Department records only the engineering finding, which is the one it is competent to make: the wide boulevards did not prevent barricades. They changed who won.



Figure 6.1: A barricade, assessed. Barrels, a cart, chairs and paving stones, with the Department's engineers measuring it and declining to discuss what it is for. The Department's drawing.

6.3 The structural assessment

Barricade	Materials	Built	The engineers' note
Paris, 12 May 1588	barrels of stone and earth; chains	overnight, to a plan	well founded; chains pre-positioned; held
Paris, 1830 to 1848	paving stones, carts, furniture	in hours	excellent material; uses up the street
Paris, May 1968	"whatever was at hand"; paving stones	in a night	the paving thrown rather than stacked; poor practice
France, 2018 to 2020	a roadside barrier at a roundabout	weekly	occupied by people in high-visibility clothing, a first
France, October 2026	school gates; bins	before lessons	not assessed: see Chapter 7

Table 6.1: Barricades, assessed as structures. The engineers have been asked what they were for, and have replied that this was not in their brief. References 1, 14, 16, 17, 18.

Major MacTavish assessed the barricade against his maxim without being asked. Not moving: full marks, the barricade being a wall that exists only so as not to move. A brew: none recorded at any of them, and he would like to know how anybody held a street all night without one. A rifle: he declined to award it, on the ground that the other side always had more. 'A barricade is a good wall in the wrong place. It is built to be knocked down, and it always is, and then they build another. That is not a defence. It is a conversation.'

6.4 The anthem

The College choir, which sings at the Vice-Chancellor's annual inspection of the boilers, has objected that La Marseillaise makes it unusually difficult to tell when a French revolution has officially ended. It was written in 1792 as a war song for the Army of the Rhine, adopted as the national anthem on 14 July 1795, dropped in 1799, and readopted in 1879.[21] The anthem itself has been in office, out of it and back, which the choir regards as setting a poor example. The students of 8 October sang it on the July Column.[1]

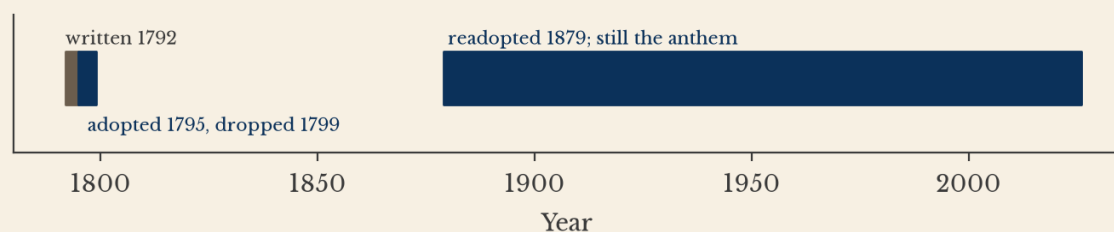


Figure 6.2: The Marseillaise in office. Written 1792; national anthem 1795 to 1799; out for eighty years; readopted 1879 and still in post. Reference 21.

College finding 6. The barricade is a French word for an old idea, built from the street itself; the state widened the streets; the stones stayed. The Department's engineers rate it a poor wall and an excellent argument. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Partly on Credit, Behind Barricades of Their Own Streets, Except in 1066, and So Is Jersey

7 THIS WEEK

7.1 The recent record

The present century has kept up the habit. The gilets jaunes, the yellow vests, began on 17 November 2018 over a rise in fuel tax and protested weekly until June 2020; in December 2018 the Arc de Triomphe was vandalised and more than a hundred cars burned in Paris in a day.[18] The government cancelled the fuel tax.[18] It also, in December 2018 and January 2019, asked for cahiers de doléances to be compiled across the country, and held town meetings on them through the spring.[19] The books of grievances last opened in 1789 were opened again; the Department, which keeps the College's complaints book, notes that France's had been in the drawer for two hundred and twenty-nine years. France's farmers have protested through the 2020s with tractors and blockades, and in May 2026 held a 'semi-blockade' at a refinery near Lyon over the price of the diesel their machines burn.[20]

Students have done this before. In late 1986 university and school students struck and marched against the Devaquet bill, which would have let universities charge higher fees and choose their students. On 6 December Malik Oussekin, a student who was not taking part, died in police custody; the bill was withdrawn two days later and the minister resigned.[30,31] In October and November 2005, after the deaths of two teenagers, Zyed Benna and Bouna Traoré, tensions over youth unemployment and police harassment in the poorer housing estates became three weeks of rioting across France; a state of emergency was declared on 8 November and more than eight thousand vehicles were burned.[32] The Department reports both without comment, as it reports this week's injuries.

7.2 The schools

This month's protest is by schoolchildren. It began over 'chronic teacher shortages, crowded classes, dilapidated buildings and long school days'. By Thursday 8 October it was in its tenth day: more than seventy-one thousand marched, according to the interior ministry; some twenty-five thousand filled the Place de la Bastille; and 224 high schools were shut on the morning and 157 by lunchtime, so that about 95 per cent were at least partly open.[1] The students demand ten billion euros for the schools. The draft budget for 2027 gives education the second-largest increase after defence, 1.4 per cent, to 90.9 billion.[1]

It has not been peaceful everywhere, and the Department reports the cost without comment. By 8 October at least 215 teenagers, 89 school staff and 761 police officers had been injured, and the government had suspended the police's use of stun grenades after a teenager's hand was blown off.[1] One of the students' banners read: 'Too young to be listened to, but old enough to be teargassed.' [1] The Department has nothing to add to it.

7.3 The announcement cycle

The government's response follows a pattern the Revolt Classification Office, re-established for this chapter, has learned to recognise. The government announces a reform. The public announces a route. The police announce a diversion. The minister announces that the reform has been misunderstood. This week the education minister announced three thousand substitute teachers for about a hundred schools 'between tomorrow and Tuesday' and several hundred new posts; the prime minister announced amendments to the 2027 budget to translate 'some of the students' demands into concrete measures'; and the economy minister announced that there was room in that budget.[1] The students announced that they had heard 'no concrete measures whatsoever' and would continue.[1] The unions announced a national day of action for Tuesday.[1] The cycle has a precedent. In 2023 more than a million people marched on 19 January against raising the pension age from 62 to 64, strikes left rubbish in the streets, and in March the government used Article 49.3 of the Constitution to pass the reform without a vote.[33] The Office recorded the cycle as completed with its second step omitted.

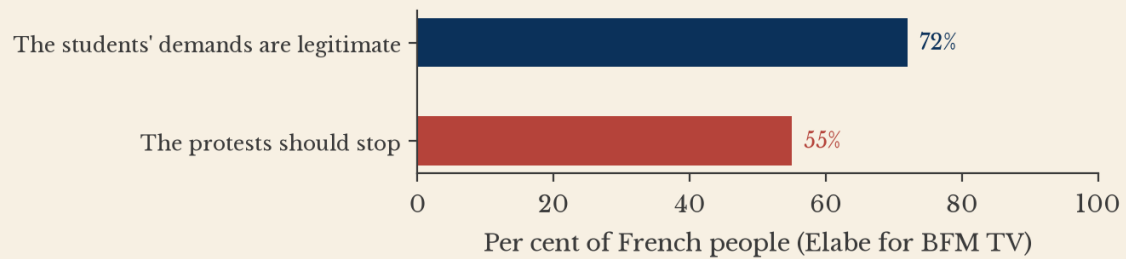


Figure 7.1: Public opinion this week. In a poll by Elabe for BFM TV, 72 per cent of the French thought the students' demands legitimate, and 55 per cent thought the protests should stop. Reference 1.

The poll in Figure 7.1 is, in the Department's view, the most French document in this paper: a clear majority think the students are right, and a majority think they should stop. Professor Widowson-Bligh, asked how the figures could add to a hundred and twenty-seven, replied that they are not meant to add.

7.4 The invoice, again

The Guardian's correspondent describes the government as 'caught between popular demands for investment in deteriorating public services and pressure from markets to reduce France's ballooning budget deficit and debt mountain, among the highest in the EU'.^[1] Swansea's historians describe the Crown in 1787 as unable to borrow except at higher interest, with debt service consuming a rising share of revenue.^[5] The Department does not suggest that 2026 is 1789. It observes only that the invoice is the same shape, and that a presidential election is six months away.^[1] The students, for their part, want teachers and buildings, which is what every college wants, and the College finds itself, uncomfortably, on their side.

College finding 7. The students of 2026 are protesting about the condition of their schools, in the street, with a complaints procedure and a budget in the background. The Department recognises the format and cannot fault the subject. *Title amended to: Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Partly on Credit, Usually Over Bread, Fuel or Schools, Except in 1066, and So Is Jersey*

8 THE BRITISH COMPARISON

8.1 The rule applied

Professor Fortescue's rule requires any principle the College applies to others to be applied to itself, and the 'always' in the Bursar's remark implies that the British revolt less. The Department scored the British record on the College's Index, by the same method, and set it beside the French. It first had to decide what 'British' meant, Jersey having made it careful: before 1707 there was a Kingdom of England, and then a Great Britain, and the United Kingdom came later still.[45] The series in Figure 8.1 is therefore England, then Britain, then the United Kingdom, which the Department regards as itself a record of something.

Century	France	England, then Britain
14th	The Jacquerie, 1358; the Harelle and the Maillotins, 1382, over the war's taxes	The Peasants' Revolt, 1381, over the war's poll taxes; the King met the rebels at Mile End
16th and 17th	Salt-tax and stamp-tax risings: the Pitauds, 1548; the Croquants, to 1637; the Bonnets rouges, 1675. The Day of the Barricades, 1588, which drove Henri III from Paris. The Fronde, a civil war of 1648 to 1653, named after a slingshot	The Pilgrimage of Grace, 1536, against Henry VIII's break with Rome; the Civil War, 1642 to 1651; the King executed, 1649; the monarchy restored, 1660; the Glorious Revolution, 1688
18th	Bread riots in 1775; the Revolution of 1789, which ended the monarchy	The Gordon Riots, 1780, against Catholic relief: the most destructive in London's history. Not aimed at the throne
19th	Revolutions in 1830 and 1848; the Commune, 1871	The Luddites, from 1811; the Chartists, 1838 to 1857; the vote widened by Parliament, 1832 onwards
20th	May 68: students, then ten million strikers	The General Strike, 1926; the miners' strike, 1984 to 1985
21st	The gilets jaunes; the pension protests; the schools, 2026	The riots of 2011; the riots of 2024

Table 8.1: Six centuries of revolting, side by side. After the reader's matrix; every event is in Appendix E and the references.

8.2 The English did it first

The comparison does not go the Bursar's way. The Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536, a Catholic rising of some fifty thousand in the north against Henry VIII's break with Rome, was 'the most serious of all Tudor rebellions'.[36] A century later Parliament fought the King. In England and Wales the Civil Wars of 1642 to 1651 are estimated to have killed some 85,000 people in combat and 127,000 more by other causes, about 40,000 of them civilians; on 27 January 1649 Charles I was found guilty of attempting to uphold 'an unlimited and tyrannical power', and he was executed three days later.[37,38] England abolished its monarchy a hundred and forty-four years before France abolished its own, and in May 1660 sent for it back.[39] France did the same in 1814.[40] On the College's Index the English Civil War scores ten, level with 1789.

In 1688 the English deposed James II and replaced him with his daughter and her Dutch husband, William of Orange, who landed at Torbay with an army; some historians call it the last successful invasion of England.[41] The Department, having withdrawn 1066 from the French account in Chapter 3, records that the most recent conquest of England was Dutch, and that the English called it Glorious.

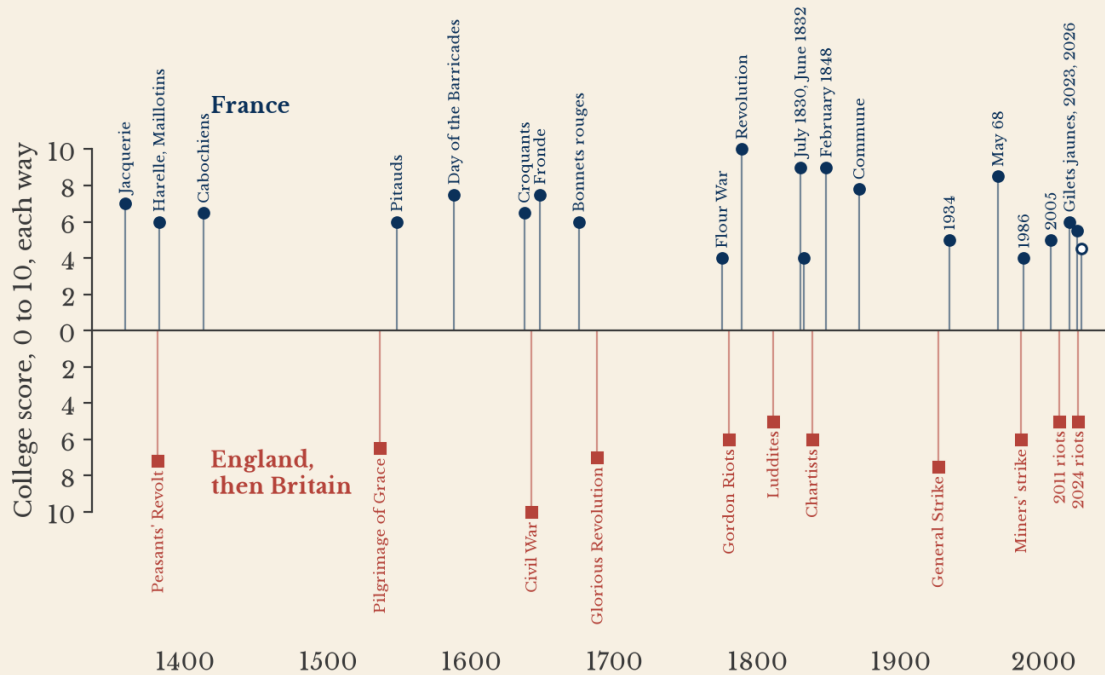


Figure 8.1: The College's Unrest Impact Index, France against England and then Britain, 1358 to 2026, after the reader's comparison. Each point is a College score; the events are real. England reaches ten first. References as Appendix E.

8.3 The pressure valve

After 1688 the British record changes character, and the Department adopts, as a working hypothesis, a distinction the reader has drawn. In France the street acts as a co-legislator: when the executive exercises outsized power, the public answers by mass mobilisation, and protests often demand that a law be withdrawn or the system changed. In Britain, dissent has more often sought admission than demolition: riots and strikes press Parliament to pass a reform rather than try to go round it. The record is consistent with the hypothesis, though it does not prove it. The Gordon Riots of June 1780, raised against a modest relief of Catholics, were the most destructive in London's history, and some three to seven hundred people died when the army was sent in; they did not aim at the throne.[42] They also fell during the American war, so that the invoice of Chapter 5 was being disputed in London at the same time as in Paris.[42] The Luddites broke textile machinery from 1811 over pay and conditions, and their historian notes that the attacks 'did not imply any necessary hostility to machinery as such', which the College, as engineers, records with relief.[43] The Chartists campaigned from 1838 for the vote, which Parliament widened in stages from the Reform Act of 1832.[44,46]

In the twentieth century the British form was the strike. In May 1926 some 1.7 million workers struck in sympathy with locked-out miners; the government had prepared, volunteers kept the services running, there was little violence, and the Trades Union Congress gave up.[47] The miners struck again in 1984, and the national strike ended on 3 March 1985.[48] The riots of 2011 began in Tottenham after police shot Mark Duggan, spread across England, and saw five people killed.[49] The riots of 2024 followed the murder of three young girls at a dance class in Southport and false claims about the attacker, and involved racist attacks, arson and looting; more than 1,800 people were arrested.[50] The Department reports both without comment.

The British also revolt over taxation, and on the evidence over the same tax. The high taxes of the war with France, among them a new poll tax first levied in 1377 at four pence a head on everybody over fourteen, were among the causes of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, which sacked the Tower of London.[23] On 31 March 1990 a demonstration against another poll tax ended in a riot in Trafalgar Square, and the tax was later abolished.[24] The two are six hundred and nine years

apart. The French, for their part, rose against the same war's taxes in 1382, a year after the English (Chapter 2), so that on the subject of paying for the Hundred Years' War the two nations were for once agreed. The English rising was the larger: the rebels marched on London, Richard II met them at Mile End and agreed to most of their demands, and the next day, at Smithfield, Wat Tyler was killed and the rising was dispersed.[23] The Index scores it 7.2, and the French risings of 1382 six.

They have also helped others to. From 1295 the Auld Alliance bound France and Scotland together against England.[26] The Department notes that France's habit of subsidising other people's quarrels with London is older than the American war by nearly five centuries, and that the Bursar has asked for that invoice too.

The British more usually object, the Department is told, by writing to a newspaper. The type is known as 'Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells', a generic letter-writer in moral outrage, whose name may come from a BBC radio programme of 1944.[25] The Department admits that this comparison is a caricature, and that the residents of Tunbridge Wells, some of whom 'continue to embrace it', are not a control group either.[25] It notes, however, that Disgusted is the second meaning of revolting, and that the British have therefore kept the word and, since 1688, mostly left the deed to the French. The Bursar, shown the Auld Alliance, found the earliest invoice in the paper, four hundred and eighty-three years before the American one, and has run out of Return to Sender stamps.

College finding 8. On the College's Index the English Civil War scores as high as 1789, a hundred and forty-four years earlier, and the monarchy came back sooner. Since 1688 the British have mostly revolted to be let into Parliament, the French to overrule it. *Title amended to:* Why the French Are Frequently Revolting, Though the English Did It First

9 CONCLUSIONS

The Bursar's remark has been amended eight times, which the Department believes to be a College record. Its findings, in the order in which they ruined one another, are these. The joke is American and began in Oz. The habit is six and a half centuries old and gave the world the word barricade. 1066 was not a French revolt, and was partly the College's fault. Jersey, which declined to be French, rioted anyway and got a constitution. The American war is on the bill for 1789, though it did not write it. The barricade is a poor wall and an excellent argument. This week's students want teachers. And the English did it first, executed a king a hundred and forty-four years earlier, and sent for the monarchy back after eleven.

9.1 The record, scored

Before its third abolition the Revolt Classification Office produced one thing that has outlived it: the College's Unrest Impact Index, which scores a revolt from nought to ten on its geographic scale, the share of the population it mobilised, and the threat it posed to the government. A raw count would compare an eighteenth-century bread riot with a protest organised by telephone, and the Index exists so as not to. Its method and every score are in Appendix E; Figure 9.1 plots them. The Bursar asked for 1066 to be scored, and the Office scored it nil, the Normans not being French. It declined to score Jersey, which is not French either, and scored Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, by request, at nought. The Office heard one appeal, from the reader, and allowed it in full (Appendix E).

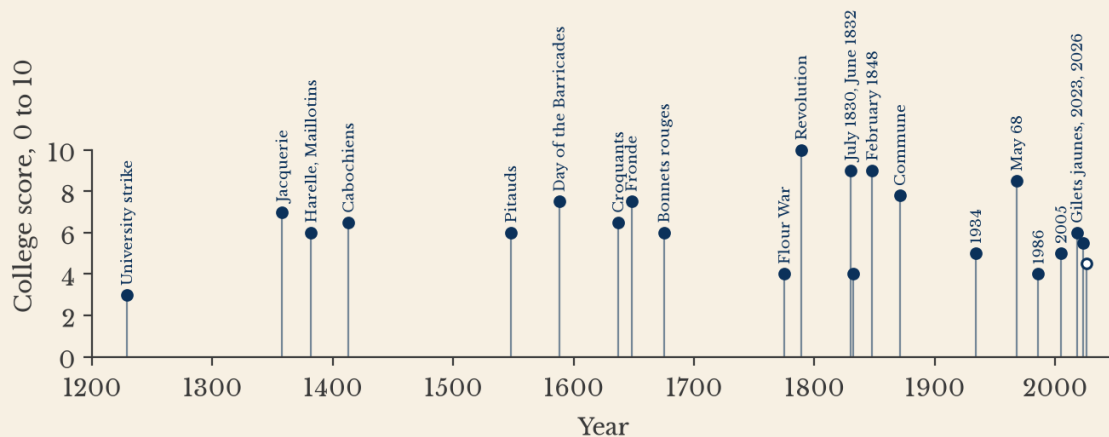


Figure 9.1: The College's Unrest Impact Index, the French record, 1229 to 2026. Each point is a College score on the method of Appendix E, as amended on appeal; the events are real. The score for 2026 is provisional, the events being unfinished. After the reader's chart. References 1, 5, 13, 17, 18, 27 to 35, 51 to 59.

9.2 Findings

Principal finding. The French are not always revolting. They are, however, unusually reluctant to regard an election as the final opportunity to express an opinion, and keep a book of grievances in a drawer for the purpose. Jersey agrees in principle, while reserving its constitutional position and requesting that the College stop calling it British.

The Revolt Classification Office has been abolished for the third time, and has asked to be returned to the Registry. Its last form, in Appendix C, has a box for 'unusually firm lunch break' that was never ticked. The Bursar has asked that the paper's title be restored to his original wording, on the ground that nobody reads the amendments. Mrs Partridge has said that he can say that again.

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APPENDIX A - SAMPLE CALCULATIONS

A.1 Intervals

Estates-General: last met 1614, next 1789: 175 years. Cahiers de doléances: 1789 to 2018: 229 years. Poll tax to poll tax: 1381 to 1990: 609 years. Wedding to Conquest: 1002 to 1066: 64 years. Normandy lost to Jersey landing: 1204 to 1781: 577 years. Pun to Louis XVI: 1904 to 1963: 59 years; Louis XVI's death to the pun: 1793 to 1963: 170 years.

A.2 The anthem

In office 1795-1799: 4 years. Out 1799-1879: 80 years. In since 1879: 147 years to 2026. Share of the years since 1792 in office: 151 of 234, or 65 per cent.

A.3 This week

Schools shut: 224 in the morning, 157 at lunchtime, a fall of 30 per cent by lunch. Marchers: 71,000 (interior ministry). At the Bastille: about 25,000, or 35 per cent of them. Education budget 2027: 90.9 billion euros after a 1.4 per cent increase, so about 89.6 billion before; increase about 1.25 billion. Students' demand: 10 billion, or eight times the increase.

A.4 The poll

$72 + 55 = 127$. Professor Widdowson-Bligh's comment applies.

APPENDIX B - THE FAMILY TREE

Moved here from Chapter 3, as stated. The Department has not drawn it, and sets it out as a table.

Generation	Normandy	England
1	Richard I, Duke of Normandy	
2	Richard II, Duke (whom Æthelred tried to capture); his sister Emma	Æthelred, the College's namesake, marries Emma, 1002
3	Robert I, Duke	Edward the Confessor, son of Æthelred and Emma; king 1042-66
4	William, Duke; his claim rests on the marriage of 1002	Edward dies childless, January 1066

Table B.1: How the College's namesake came to be related to the Conquest. References 6, 7, 8.

APPENDIX C - THE REVOLT CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

The Office's form, final edition. It is fiction. It was overtaken by events in every chapter.

Class	Definition	Example in this paper	Status
Revolution	Changes the government and the calendar	1789	withdrawn: France changed the anthem too, twice
Uprising	Armed, local, short	1358; 1830-48	retained
Riot	Breaks into a building in a threatening manner	Jersey, 1769	reclassified as constitutional reform
Strike	Stops work	May 1968	merged with uprising, by the participants
Demonstration	Walks somewhere and sings	the Bastille, 8 October 2026	retained, with injuries noted
Unusually firm lunch break	Stops work and eats	none found	never ticked

Table C.1: The Office's classes. The Bursar has asked for a class for 'invoice'. Fiction.

APPENDIX E - THE COLLEGE'S UNREST IMPACT INDEX

The Index scores a revolt from nought to ten. A raw count of protests would be historically inaccurate, because the records of 1775 and the police databases of 2026 do not count the same things; the Index measures instead intensity, scale and threat on three criteria. **Geographic scale:** was the unrest confined to one quarter of Paris, or did it paralyse the country? **Mobilisation:** what share of the active population or the labour force stopped work or took to the streets? **Regime threat:** did it threaten the immediate collapse of the government, or overturn the political system? Scores fall in five bands: 0 to 2, baseline (local strikes and demonstrations, no disruption to daily life); 3 to 4, local or sector crisis; 5 to 6, national disruption, with gridlock, curfews or emergency measures; 7 to 8, systemic insurrection that brings the country to a standstill; 9 to 10, revolution that dissolves institutions, overthrows a monarch or founds a republic. The Index is the College's, compiled by the Revolt Classification Office; the scores are judgements, and the events are real.

Year	Event	Cause	Outcome	Score
1229	The University of Paris strike	a tavern bill	a papal bull	3
1358	The Jacquerie	the nobility, after Poitiers	put down	7
1382	The Harelle and the Maillotins	war taxes reimposed	put down	6
1413	The Cabochiens	the Burgundian faction	put down	6.5
1548	The Pitauds	the salt tax	the tax bought out	6
1588	The Day of the Barricades	the Catholic League	Henri III fled Paris	7.5
1637	The Croquants	taxes	an amnesty	6.5
1648	The Fronde	war debts; centralisation	the Crown prevailed	7.5
1675	The Bonnets rouges	stamped paper	suppressed	6
1775	The Flour War	grain freed, bread dear	price controls and troops	4
1789	The Revolution	debt, bread, the Estates-General	the monarchy ended	10
1830	The July Revolution	the King's ordinances	the King replaced	9
1832	The June Rebellion	Lamarque's funeral	suppressed in two days	4
1848	The February Revolution	reform refused	a republic	9
1871	The Paris Commune	the end of the war with Prussia	suppressed; the Bloody Week	7.8
1934	The 6 February crisis	a riot at the Assembly	the government resigned	5
1968	May 68	students, then ten million strikers	a snap election	8.5

Year	Event	Cause	Outcome	Score
1986	The student protests	the Devaquet bill	bill withdrawn; a student killed	4
2005	The suburban riots	two teenagers' deaths	a state of emergency	5
2018	The gilets jaunes	fuel tax	the tax cancelled	6
2023	The pension protests	pension age 62 to 64	passed without a vote	5.5
2026	The school protests	teachers and buildings	continuing	4.5 (provisional)
1066	The Norman Conquest	a claim through a wedding	not French	nil
1572	St Bartholomew's Day	a massacre of Huguenots	not a revolt	excluded
1944	The Liberation of Paris	the occupation	not against a French government	excluded
1769	The Jersey Corn Riots	corn	the Code of 1771	not scored: not French
1944-	Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells	everything	a letter	0

Table E.1: The record, scored. The scores are the College's judgement on the method above; the events are real and referenced in the paper. The last three rows were scored at the Bursar's request, and the two above them were struck out on appeal. References 1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 25, 27 to 35, 51 to 59.

Year	Event	Cause	Outcome	Score
1381	The Peasants' Revolt	the war's poll taxes	Mile End; Smithfield; dispersed	7.2
1536	The Pilgrimage of Grace	the break with Rome	suppressed	6.5
1642	The Civil War	King against Parliament	the King executed; a republic	10
1688	The Glorious Revolution	a Catholic king	a Dutch one	7
1780	The Gordon Riots	Catholic relief	the army sent in	6
1811	The Luddites	machines, pay	suppressed	5
1838	The Chartists	the vote	reform, eventually	6
1926	The General Strike	the locked-out miners	the TUC gave up	7.5
1984	The miners' strike	pit closures	ended March 1985	6
2011	The England riots	a police shooting	five deaths; arrests	5
2024	The UK riots	Southport and false claims	arrests and sentences	5

Table E.2: England, then Britain, scored on the same method. The College's judgement after the reader's comparison; the events are real. References 23, 36 to 50.

The Office heard one appeal before its abolition, from the reader, and allowed it in full. It lowered the June Rebellion of 1832, which held two days and one city, to 4; the Commune, which was put down, to 7.8; and this week, which has no curfew and no state of emergency, to 4.5. It struck out the Liberation of 1944, which ended an occupation and did not revolt against a French government, and the St Bartholomew's Day massacre of 1572, which was done to Huguenots and not by a crowd to a King, and put the Day of the Barricades of 1588 in its place. It also scored the English Peasants' Revolt, which nobody had asked it to. It heard the appeal on the three criteria separately. Each is scored to 3.3, so that the three sum to 9.9; the Office awards the last tenth to 1789 and to the English Civil War by acclamation, and has been told that this is not a method. Table E.3 gives the working for the four scores the appeal changed or added; the two exclusions needed none.

Event	Scale	Mobilisation	Threat	Total	Was
The Peasants' Revolt, 1381	2.5	1.9	2.8	7.2	not scored
The June Rebellion, 1832	1.0	1.2	1.8	4.0	6
The Paris Commune, 1871	1.5	3.0	3.3	7.8	9
This week, 2026	2.1	1.3	1.1	4.5	6

Table E.3: The appeal, worked. Each criterion out of 3.3. The College's judgement on the reader's rulings; 2026 remains provisional.

APPENDIX D - DEPARTMENTAL NOTE

The Department of Applied Economics, Creative Accountancy and the Bursar's Nerves teaches the BSc in Applied Economics and Creative Accountancy (KE32). From Michaelmas 2026 the module What Passes Through and What Stays will set this question: 'France lent money to a revolution in America in 1778 and received one at home in 1789. Trace the invoice. You may use the cahiers de doléances; you may not use the word always. The Bursar will not read your answer after lunch, or before it.'

The Department records that the College's own complaints book is kept in the Porters' Lodge, has not been opened since 1979, and contains one entry, on the subject of the lawn.

Persevera Etelred