

# HISTORY

## Chapter 1: The French Revolution



## Important Questions

### Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. Which of the following state of French society paid all the taxes?

- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> estate
- (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> estate
- (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> estate
- (d) All a, b and c

Question 2. The tax that was charged by the church from the peasants :

- (a) Tithes
- (b) Taille
- (c) Indirect tax
- (d) Irrigation tax

Question 3. Which of the following tax was paid by the peasants of France :

- (i) Taille (ii) Tithe (iii) Indirect taxes (iv) No tax was given
- (a) (i) and (ii)
- (b) (ii) and (iii)
- (c) (iv)
- (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)

Question 4. What did Montesquieu propose?

- (a) He purposed the division of separation of power.
- (b) He opposed the theory of separation of power.
- (c) He argued that legislature, legislative and judiciary should be depended on each other.
- (d) He purposed a division of power between judiciary, executive and legislature.

Question 5. Which one of the following is the author of 'The Social Contract'?

- (a) Rosseau
- (b) Voltaire
- (c) Montesquieu
- (d) Mirabeau

Question 6. Which of the following were the two leaders of National Assembly of France?

- (a) Mirabeau and Voltaire
- (b) Mirabeau and Rousseau
- (c) Mirabeau and Montesquieu
- (d) Mirabeau and Abbesieyes

Question 7. Name the French Revolutionary who edited the paper 'L' Ami due people.

- (a) Jean-Paul Marat
- (b) Voltaire
- (c) Abbe-Sieyes
- (d) Montesquieu

Question 8. Which period is referred to as the 'Reign of Terror'?

- (a) The period from 1793 to 1794
- (b) The period from 1789 to 1794
- (c) The period from 1789 to 1785
- (d) The period from 1789 to 1799

Question 9. What is Directory?

- (a) It was executive made up from 3rd estate of French society
- (b) It was executive made up from the members of French parliament.
- (c) It was executive made up of five members.
- (d) It was an elected body by the French Citizen.

Question 10. When was a legislative, to free all the slaves in the French overseas possession passed?

- (a) In 1783
- (b) In 1793
- (c) In 1795
- (d) In 1794

Question 11. The French Revolution started in:

- (a) 1789
- (b) 1688
- (c) 1709
- (d) 1749

Question 12. Louis XVII became the king of France in :

- (a) 1784
- (b) 1764
- (c) 1774
- (d) 1789

Question 13. The term subsistence stands for:

- (a) An extreme condition where basic condition for survival is fulfilled.
- (b) A social division of society.
- (c) A group of French army.
- (d) An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered.

Question 14. The spirit of laws was written by:

- (a) Montesquieu
- (b) Rousseau
- (c) Voltaire
- (d) Locke

Question 15. Name the French philosopher who said that the people are real masters of the rule and king rules with their consent.

- (a) Voltaire
- (b) Rousseau
- (c) Locke
- (d) Montesquieu

### Very Short Questions:

1. Which incident sparked the French Revolution?
2. Why was Bastille prison attacked?
3. Why was the Bastille hated by all?
4. What did the French Revolution of 1789 stand for?
5. What was the immediate cause of rioting in Paris?
6. Which ruler came to power in France in 1774?
7. What activity of the French monarchy hastened the revolution?
8. How did the American War of Independence add more debt to France?
9. Why did the French government increase the taxes?
10. What was the Old Regime?



### Short Questions:

1. What was the Old Regime?
2. On ascending the throne of France, Louis XVI found the treasury empty. Why was the treasury empty??
3. Describe the divisions of the French society before the French Revolution.
4. Which three causes led to the 'subsistence crisis' in France during the Old Regime.
5. Describe the middle class in three points.
6. What was the tennis court oath? [HOTS]?
7. Explain the turmoil in France while the National Assembly was busy at Versailles.
8. How did peasants protest against the feudal lords or nobles of France?

### Long Questions:

1. Discuss the main causes of the French Revolution. [HOTS]?
2. Explain the events/incidents which led to the outbreak of French Revolution.
3. How did philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France?
4. Explain the features of the constitution of France drafted in 1791.
5. List down the political symbols of France.

### Assertion Reason Questions:

1. In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) followed by a statement of Reason (R) is given. Choose the correct option out of the choices given below each question.

**Assertion (A) :** Tithe was a tax levied by the Church.

**Reason (R) :** It comprised of one tenth of the agricultural produce.

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
  - B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
  - C) A is true, but R is false
  - D) A is false, but R is true
2. In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) followed by a statement of Reason (R) is given. Choose the correct option out of the choices given below each question.
- Assertion (A) :** On 21st September, 1792 the monarchy was abolished and France was declared as a republic.

**Reason (R) :** A republic is a form of government where the people elect the government including the head of the government.

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C) A is true, but R is false
- D) A is false, but R is true

### Case Study Based Question:

1. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

The constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. That is, citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly. Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 day of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote. The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens. To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.

(1) The new constitution made France a

- A) Communist state
- B) Constitutional Monarchy
- C) Democratic state
- D) Totalitarian state

(2) Which of these rights were not established as natural and inalienable rights by the constitution of 1791?

- A) Right to life
- B) Freedom of speech and opinion
- C) Equality before the law
- D) All of the above

(3) In the case of constitutional monarchy, the monarch .....

- A) has no or few legal limitations in political matters.
- B) retains a distinctive legal and ceremonial role but exercise limited or no power.
- C) has so all the power and no legal limitation in the political matter.
- D) has no legal and ceremonial roles in the government.

(4) What was the main objective behind drafting of constitution of 1791?

- A) To limit the power of the monarch.
- B) To regulate the powers of the monarch.
- C) To increase the powers of the monarch.
- D) None of the above

2. Read the source and answer the following questions.

The situation in France continued to be tense during the following years. Although Louis XVI had signed the Constitution, he entered into secret negotiations with the King of Prussia. Rulers of other neighbouring countries too were worried by the developments in France and made plans to send troops to put down the events that had been taking place there since the summer of 1789. Before this could happen, the National Assembly voted in April 1792 to declare war against Prussia and Austria.

Thousands of volunteers thronged from the provinces to join the army. They saw this as a war of the people against kings and aristocracies all over Europe. Among the patriotic songs they sang was the Marseillaise, composed by the poet Roget de Lisle. It was sung for the first time by volunteers from Marseilles as they marched into Paris and so got its name. The Marseillaise is now the national anthem of France.

(1) Which of the following statements justify the support of other neighbouring rulers toward France during the French Revolution?

- A) Rulers of the neighbouring countries wanted to make an association.
- B) Rulers of the neighbouring countries preferred the policies of Louis XVI.
- C) Rulers of the neighbouring countries were worried by the development in France.
- D) All of the above.

(2) Identify the reason, why thousands of volunteers from the different provinces joined the army of National Assembly?

- A) They thought they would get a good remuneration for it.
- B) They wanted to take part in war.
- C) They saw this as a war of people against kings and aristocracies of European countries.
- D) None of the above.

(3) Why did the large section of French people thought that the revolution had to be carried further?

A) Leaders only could achieve desired freedom.

B) It made the society livable.

C) The Constitution of 1791 gave political rights only to the richer sections of society.

D) The Third Estate wanted economic freedom.

(4) Political club during the French people thought that the revolution had to be carried further?

A) Revolution became very significant in society as it became a rallying for discussing government policies.

B) they planned their own forms of action.

C) they wanted cultural upliftment of the society.

D) Both (a) and (b).

**Answer Key:**

**MCQ**

1. (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> estate

2. (a) Tithes

3. (d) (i), (ii) and (iii) Ans

4. (d) He purposed a division of power between judiciary, executive and legislature.

5. (a) Rosseau

6. (d) Mirabeau and Abbesieyes

7. (a) Jean-Paul Marat

8. (a) The period from 1793 to 1794

9. (c) It was executive made up of five members.

10.(d) In 1794

11.(a) 1789

12.(c) 1774

13.(d) An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered

14.(a) Montesquieu

15.(b) Rousseau

**Very Short Answer:**

1. The attack by the third estate on the Bastille State prison (14th July 1789) and setting free

the prisoners was the incident which sparked the French Revolution.

2. The attack by the third estate on the Bastille State prison (14th July 1789) and setting free the prisoners was the incident which sparked the French Revolution.
3. Bastille was hated by all because it was seen as a symbol of the despotic power of the king.
4. The French Revolution of 1789 stood for the ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
5. The high price of bread was the immediate cause of rioting in Paris.
6. Louis XVI of the Bourbon family ascended the throne of France in 1774.
7. The extravagant lifestyle of the monarch brought France on the verge of bankruptcy and hastened the revolution.
8. The French army supported thirteen colonies of America in the war of independence against Great Britain. It added one billion livres (currency unit in France) that had risen to more than two billion livres with interest.
9. To meet the regular expenses such as cost of maintaining an army, the court and running the government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.
10. The term Old Regime is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789.

### Short Answer:

**Ans: 1.** The following events took place on 14th July 1789.

- (a) The king had ordered the troops to move into the city. There were rumours that he would soon order the troops to open fire upon citizens.
- (b) Around 7,000 men and women formed a militia and broke into a number of government buildings in search of arms.
- (c) Then the fortress-prison of Bastille was stormed by hundreds of people with the hope to find hoarded ammunition. Bastille was destroyed completely as it was hated by all.

**Ans: 2.** The causes for empty treasury at the time of his accession were as follows.

- (a) The financial resources of France had drained due to the long years of war.
- (b) The high cost of maintaining an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles also added to the financial drain.
- (c) France had helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from Britain. This increased the debt to more than 2 billion livres.



**Ans: 3.** Before the French Revolution, the French society was divided into three estates.

(a) The 1st estate was comprised of the Church and the clergy. They enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these privileges was exemption from paying taxes.

(b) The 2nd estate was comprised of the nobles and other rich people of the society. These were also exempted from paying taxes. They also enjoyed feudal privileges which included collection of feudal dues by the peasants.

(c) The 3rd estate was comprised of big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers, peasants, artisans, landless labourers and servants. Within the third estate, some were rich and others were poor. The peasants obliged the landlords by working on their fields, in their houses, to serve in the army or to participate in the building of roads. They were paying all direct taxes like *taille* and a number of indirect taxes on salt or tobacco, but had no rights.

**Ans: 4.** The following points show how the subsistence crisis occurred in France during the Old Regime.

(a) The population of France increased from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to the increase in demand for foodgrains.

(b) When the production of foodgrains could not keep pace with the growing demand, the price of bread which was the staple food increased rapidly.

(c) On the other hand, the wages could not keep pace with the rise in prices. At the time of drought or hail, harvest reduced and things got worsed. Thus, the gap between the poor and the rich widened and this led to the subsistence crisis.

**Ans: 5.** The following points describe the middle class in French society.

(a) The middle class was a social group that emerged in France in the 18th century. This class made money through an expanding overseas trade and by manufacturing goods like woollen and silk textiles.

(b) The middle class, along with merchants and manufacturers, included professionals like lawyers and administrative officials.

(c) All these people were educated believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth and a person's position in society should be based on his merit.

**Ans: 6.** The third estate representatives viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. They

assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles on 20 June 1789. There

they declared themselves as a National Assembly.

**Ans: 7.** While the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting the constitution, the rest of France seethed with turmoil in the following ways.



- (a) A severe winter had meant a bad harvest, resulting in rising price of bread thus, the situation was exploited by bakers and hoarded supplies. Angry women stormed into the shops after standing for long hours in bakery queues.
- (b) The army was ordered by the king to move into the city. There were rumours that army would be ordered to open fire upon the citizens. Thousands of agitated people gathered and decided to form a militia.
- (c) They broke into a number of government buildings in search of arms. They destroyed the prison of Bastille on 14 July 1789.

### Long Answer:

**Ans: 1.** The following are the main causes of French Revolution:

- (a) Despotic rule of Louis XVI. Long years of wars and extravagance of the king led to financial crises in France. This forced king to increase taxes mostly paid by the third estate. It created chaos in the society.
- (b) Privileges and Burdens of the French Society. First and the second estate had certain privileges by birth. The first two estates were comprised of the clergy and nobility which was 10% of the total population. Rest of the 90% population made up the third estate that paid all the various direct and indirect taxes. This discrimination led to the revolution by the 3rd estate.
- (c) Rising prices. The population of France had increased. This resulted into more demand of foodgrains. So, the price of bread rose rapidly, the poor were not able to buy the high-priced bread. So, the gap between the rich and poor widened.
- (d) Inspiration by the Philosophers. The philosophers like Locke, Rousseau and Montesquieu spread the ideas of having a society where the people enjoy freedom, equal laws and equal opportunities. They inspired the people of France to realise their dreams.
- (e) Role of Middle class. Another major cause was the role of the middle class who earned their wealth through expanding trade of manufactured goods, being exported.
- (f) Storming of Bastille prison. During the political turmoil, France experienced severe winters leading to bad harvest. The price of bread increased, as the stocks were hoarded in the market. Angry women attacked the shops. At the same time troops were ordered into Paris. Agitated crowd stormed and destroyed Bastille prison administrative officials, i.e., those who were educated. They believed that no person in the society should be privileged by birth.

**Ans: 2.** The following events/incidents led to the outbreak of the French Revolution:

- (a) Meeting of the Estate General. On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI had called a meeting of Estate General to increase the taxes. Representatives of all the three estates came.

But the members of the 3rd estate were made to stand while women, peasants, artisans and women were not allowed entry to the assembly.

- (h) Demand for one vote one person. The third estate at the meeting of the Estate General demanded one vote for each member. This demand was rejected by the king and the members of the third estate walked out in protest.
- (c) Meeting of the newly-formed National Assembly. Since the members of the third estate were more, they considered themselves the voice of the people/whole nation. They assembled in the indoor tennis court of Versailles and declared themselves as the 'National Assembly'. They believed in removing the feudal privileges of the nobles and clergy.
- (d) Winters created worse situation. Harvest declined, prices rose and bakers exploited poor by hoarding supplies. Angry crowd stormed the shops.
- (e) Revolt in the countryside by the peasants. There were rumours that their ripe crops would be destroyed by the lords hired bands. The peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked manors of the lords. They looted the hoarded grains and burnt the documents containing the records of manorial dues.

**Ans: 3.** The philosophers influenced the thinking of the people of France in the following ways:

- (a) Philosophers such as John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau put forward ideas envisaging a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.
- (b) In Two Treatises of Government, John Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute rights of the monarch.
- (c) His ideas were carried forward by Rousseau as he was proposing a form of government based on social contract between the people and their representatives.
- (d) In The Spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.
- (e) The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and were spread among people through books and newspapers.

**Ans: 4.** (a) The constitution of 1791 was the first written constitution in France, created after the collapse of the absolute rule.

- (b) Its main aim was to limit the powers of the monarch.
- (c) Powers were then divided/separated and assigned to different institutions like legislative, executive and judiciary.
- (d) According to this, active citizens of France elected electors who in turn voted to elect the National Assembly.
- (e) Not all citizens had the right to vote. Only men of 25 years of age who paid taxes

equal to at least three days of a labourer's wage. They were called active citizens.

(f) The remaining men and all women were called the passive citizens.

(g) The National Assembly controlled the king. France became constitutional monarchy.  
(any five points)

**Ans: 5.** Most of the people (i.e. men and women) in the 18th century. France could not read and write. So

images and symbols instead of printed books were used to communicate ideas. These symbols were

used to convey the content of declaration of rights. The important symbols were:

(a) Broken Chains: Chains were used to restrain the slaves from running away. Broken chains signify the act of becoming free.

(b) A bundle of rods: It was used to convey the message that strength lies in unity.

(c) The eye within or triangle radiating light: The all-seeing eye stands for knowledge. The rays of the sun will drive away the dark clouds of ignorance.

(d) Sceptre: It symbolises royal power.

(e) Snake biting its tail to form a ring: A symbol of eternity. The ring has neither beginning nor end.

(f) Red phrygian cap: It was worn by slaves when they were freed.

(g) Blue-white-red: These are the national colours of France.

(h) The winged woman: Personification of the law.

(i) The law tablet: The law is same for all and all are equal before it. (any five points)

### Assertion Reason Answer:

1. A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

2. A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

### Case Study Answer:

#### 1. Answer:

(1) B) Constitutional Monarchy

(2) D) All of the above

(3) B) retains a distinctive legal and ceremonial role but exercise limited or no power.

(4) A) To limit the power of the monarch.

#### 2. Answer:

- (1) B) Rulers of the neighbouring countries preferred the policies of Louis XVI.
- (2) C) They saw this as a war of people against kings and aristocracies of European countries.
- (3) C) The Constitution of 1791 gave political rights only to the richer sections of society.
- (4) B) they planned their own forms of action.



*Swotters*