

## Chapter 1 -- The French Revolution

### Very short answer type question

1. When was the Bastille prison stormed ?

Bastille prison was broken by revolutionaries on the morning of 14 July 1789

2. which ruler came to power in France in 1774?

Louis XVI of bourbon family.

3. why was treasury empty when Louis XVI ascended the throne ?

Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France and along with it was the cost of maintaining the extra court at immense palace of Versailles

4. Why did the French government increase the taxes?

To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or university

5. Who formed the first and second estates of French society?

The clergy and nobility were the members of the first and estate

6. What does subsistence crisis mean?

It is an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood were endangered

7. when was the draft of the national assembly constitution completed and what was its main objective?

The draft of the Constitution was completed in 1791 and its main objective was to limit the powers of the monarch

8. Who all got the right to vote for national assembly?

Only men above 25 years of age, who paid taxes equal to at least three days of a labourers which were given the status of active citizen and the right to vote

9. What was marseillaise?

it was a patriotic song sung by volunteers but now it is the national anthem of France

10. What was political clubs?

Political clubs were formed by people to discuss government policies and plan their forms of action

11. Who was the leader of Jacobin club?

Maximilian Robespierre

12. When did women finally get the right to vote in France?

In the year 1946

13. When was slavery finally abolished in French colonies?

Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848

14. When did Napoleon Bonaparte become emperor of France?

In the year 1804

15. In which famous war was Napoleon Bonaparte defeated?

Napoleon was finally defeated at battle of Waterloo in 1815

### **Short answer type question**

1. State any three causes for the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI

Five causes for the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI are as follows:

- a. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
- b. High cost of maintenance of immense palace
- c. Under Louis XVI France helped the 13 American colonies to gain independence from Britain.

2. Explain the events that led to the formation of the national assembly.

Reasons for the formation of national assembly are as follows

a. on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1789 Louis XVI called together an assembly of the three estates to pass proposals for new taxes.

b. The first and second estates sent 300 representatives each to the assembly while 600 members of the third estate were present there.

c. But members of the third estate demanded equal voting rights for everyone.

d. This proposal was rejected by the king.

e. Some members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

3. Explain the composition of the French society during the 18<sup>th</sup> century?

Composition of French society was:

- a. Peasants, artisans and landless made up about 90%
- b. 60% of the land was owned by nobles and clergy. Clergy and nobility enjoyed certain privileges (treatment)
- c. The members of the first two estates enjoyed privileges and paid no taxes
- d. Peasants were forced to provide services to the lord. The third estate had to pay various taxes.

4. What was the role of the philosophers in the French Revolution?

(I) John Locke. Locke wrote two treatises of government in this book he criticized the divine and absolute right of the monarch rulers

(II) Jean Jacques Rousseau Rousseau had written his viewpoint in his book the social contract he had put forward the idea of formation of a government based on social contract between people and their representatives

(III) Montesquieu. his ideas were proposed in his book the spirit of the laws according to him there should be a division of power between legislative the executive and judiciary

5. Differentiate between active and passive citizens

(I) active citizens: only men above 25 years of age who pay taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labours which were given the status of active citizen . only they have the right to vote.

(II) passive citizens: passive citizens are those those who are remaining like women , poor section of the society.

### Long answer type question

1. What were the main causes of the French Revolution?

Causes of the French Revolution:

- a. Despotic rule of Louis XVI: he became the ruler of France in 1774. He had drain the financial resources of France .He had also increase taxes which were paid by the third estate members only
- b. Division of French society: different society was divided into three state first second and third among them only the third estate member were forced to pay the taxes .
- c. Rising prices: The population of France has increase. This resulted into more demand of food grains. So the price of bread rose rapidly, which the poor could not afford to buy. So the gap between the rich and the poor widened
- d. Inspiration of the philosophers: philosophers like John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau propagated the idea of having a society where people would enjoy freedom equal laws and equal opportunity for stop this idea inspired the people of France to realise their dreams
- e. Role of middle class: the 18 century witnessed the emergence of social groups term as middle class who earn their wealth through trade. There were other professionals also like lawyers officials who were on educated they believe that no group in society should be treated or given privilege by birth.

2. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France?

The incidents leading to the outbreak of the revolution were:

- A. Meeting of the estate general: on 5<sup>th</sup> may 1789 Louis XVI call for a meeting to propose new taxes and pigeons are tisanes and women were denied entry in the hall.

- B. Demand for voting right: members of the third estate demanded the power for each member to vote when the king rejected the demand members of the third estate walked out of the assembly to protest
- C. Meeting of the newly formed national assembly: all the members of the third estate assemble in an indoor tennis court and declared themselves as the national assembly they believed in removing the feudal privileges of the nobles and clergy
- D. Revolt by peasants: the countryside rumours spread from village to village that their right crop would be destroyed so peasants in several districts rose to attack
- E. Fall of Bastille prison: the severe winter increased the price of bread. Angry women attacked the shops. At the same time the king ordered troops to move into Paris. On 14 July 1789 the angry crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille

3. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte? Why was he called a liberator?

(I) Napoleon Bonaparte was the emperor of France in 1804 who reintroduced monarchy in France

(II) He conquered his neighbouring countries and created Kingdom where he placed his own family members

(III) He introduced many laws such as protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures

(IV) Many people believe that Napoleon was a liberator who would bring back freedom for the people

(V) Many of his measures that carried the revolutionary idea of liberty and modern law to other parts of Europe had an impact on people long after Napoleon had left.

### **SOLUTION TO EXERCISE QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France?**

Ans. there were some causes which led to the outbreak of revolutionary protest. They are as follows

- A. Privileges based on birth; There were rich people in the society who received privileges by birth that is the clergy and nobility leading to discrimination among common people
- B. The war with Britain for an independent America: due to this war there was a high debt on French monarchy for the repayment of those there are many new taxes were imposed on the common people
- C. Concentration of power among the privileged: there was no equal division of power in the society the third States was dependent on the first and the second States for money
- D. Subsistence crisis: there was demand-supply gap of bread due to the increasing population and less production of grains

- E. Growing middle class: a new class emerged. This class was wealthy because of their skills and education and believed in the idea of equal distribution of wealth. They began rising their voice to end the privileges.

**2. Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which section of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?**

Ans. It was the third States who mainly benefited from the revolution as they gained equal social economic rights and status. Whereas the clergy and nobility were forced to surrender their powers. For the moderates, a constitutional monarchy was also there, disappointed along with the women.

**3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world during the 19th and 20th century?**

Ans. There were two most important legacies of the French Revolution:

- A. The idea of democratic rights and liberty with equality and fraternity.
- B. It was France from where the ideas were spread to the rest of Europe and the rest of the world during the nineteenth century.

**4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today and whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.**

The following fundamental rights given in the Indian Constitution can be traced to the French Revolution.

- The right to equality
- The right to freedom of speech and expression
- Right against exploitation

**6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?**

Rise of Napoleon

- Napoleon gained control of France as a dictator in 1804.
- In 1804 he crowned himself as the emperor of France.
- He set out to conquer the neighbouring European countries.
- Soon the Napoleonic army came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force.
- The political instability in the French society paved the way for the rise of the military dictator Napoleon Bonaparte.

