(FA21-BAI-019) Tahawar Khattak

(FA21-BAI-018) Hasnain Shahid  
(FA21-BAI-016) Syed Mujahid Hussain  
(FA21-BAI-012) Jawad Shahid

(SP21-BAI-019) Taimoor Shafique

(SP21-BAI-018) Naeem Akhtar  
(SP21-BAI-014) Mohsin Idrees

(SP21-BAI-012) Hamdan Ali

(FA21-BAI-019) TAHAWAR KHATTAK

French

Assignment 03

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**Famous Landmarks of Paris**

**Introduction**

Paris, the capital of France, is world-renowned for its art, culture, and architectural marvels. Among its many historical landmarks, the **Eiffel Tower**, **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, and **Arc de Triomphe** are particularly significant. These monuments not only represent the city's rich history but also its global cultural influence.

**1. Eiffel Tower**

The **Eiffel Tower** is perhaps the most iconic symbol of Paris. It was constructed in 1889 for the World’s Fair by engineer **Gustave Eiffel**. Initially met with criticism for its unconventional design, the iron tower quickly gained popularity and became a beloved feature of the Paris skyline.

* **Height:** 330 meters tall
* **Features:** Three viewing decks offering panoramic views
* **Attraction:** Sparkling lights every evening, drawing millions of visitors yearly

The Eiffel Tower is a prime example of engineering brilliance and remains a major tourist destination.

**2. Notre-Dame Cathedral**

The **Notre-Dame Cathedral** is a masterpiece of **French Gothic architecture**, located on the Île de la Cité in central Paris. Construction began in **1163** and was completed in the 14th century. It is famous for its flying buttresses, detailed sculptures, and beautiful stained glass windows.

* **Historical Significance:** Site of major events such as Napoleon’s coronation
* **2019 Fire:** Severely damaged but currently under restoration, expected to reopen in 2024
* **Spiritual Role:** A symbol of resilience and cultural identity for France

Despite its temporary closure, Notre-Dame continues to be a revered symbol of French heritage.

**3. Arc de Triomphe**

Commissioned by **Napoleon Bonaparte** in **1806**, the **Arc de Triomphe** honors those who fought and died for France during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Located at the western end of the **Champs-Élysées**, it is one of the most famous triumphal arches in the world.

* **Key Features:** Carvings of battle scenes, inscriptions of generals’ names
* **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:** Includes an eternal flame to commemorate World War I soldiers
* **Viewing Deck:** Offers impressive views of the surrounding city

It symbolizes national pride, heroism, and remembrance.