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The French Revolution

India and the Contemporary World - I
(NCERT Book)



The concepts of equality, liberty, and freedom are frequently taken for granted in today's society. To get to where we are now, a number of political and social conflicts and changes were necessary. The French Revolution ended the absolute rule of the King and the nobility during the revolution.

Topic Notes

- Late Eighteenth Century in French Society
- The Revolution Breaks Out
- France Becomes a Republic
- Women in the French Revolution
- Slavery Abolished in France
- Effect of Revolution on Everyday Life

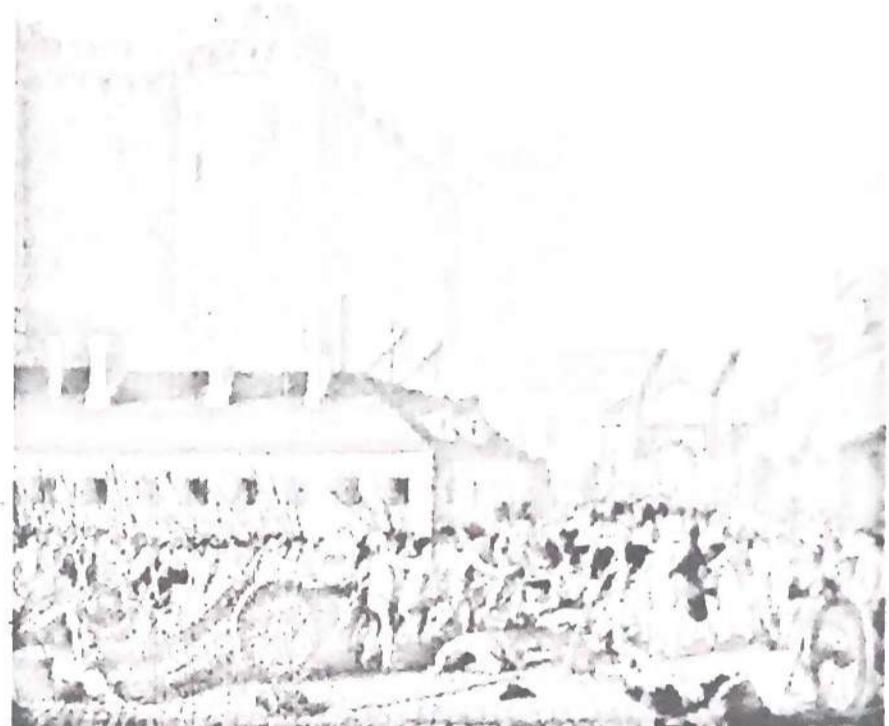
The city of Paris was panic-stricken on 14th July, 1789. The panic was created by the King's order to move troops into the city. The city was full of rumours that the King would order the army to open fire upon his citizens. Anticipating this, around 7000 people—both women and men—formed people's militia and gathered in front of the town hall. Searching for arms, they also broke into many government buildings.

On the same day, a few hundred people marched towards Bastille, the fortress prison. The people stormed the prison in hope of finding ammunition. An armed fight took place in which the people killed the commander of the Bastille and also released the seven prisoners. Bastille was widely hated by the people because it represented King's tyrannical power and not because it was a prison. Then, the people demolished the fortress and sold the stone fragments in markets as souvenirs.

Historians now remember this time as the beginning of a series of events that finally culminated in the execution of the King of France. But, people at that time did not recognise that, how and why did this happen? The days after the fall of the Bastille saw riots in Paris as well as other areas in France. The rise in the prices of bread was one of the several reasons that caused unrest among the citizens and encouraged them to revolt. These notions of freedom emerged as the central ideas of a new age; but were reinterpreted and rethought in many different ways. The anti-colonial movements in India and China, Africa and South America were individual struggles but they gained recognition only from the late eighteenth century.

Important

→ Individual rights and equal claims to resources, freedom and a dignified life became part of a new language of politics.



Pictographic Representation of Fall of Bastille

TOPIC 1

LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY IN FRENCH SOCIETY

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the accession of Louis XVI to the French throne.
- Students will understand the classification of citizens in French society.
- Students will learn about taxes and currency prevalent in the French economy.
- Students will read more about French society—its rules and the rise of various economic classes and communities.
- Students will read about new philosophies, thinkers and groundbreaking opinions popular in the late eighteenth century.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to enlist the features of each estate or classification of French society.
- Students will be able to recall various stages of subsistence crises.
- Students will be able to recall the names of different political treatises, their authors and subject matters and the influence they have on French society.

Louis XVI became the King of France in 1774 after his grandfather. At the age of 20, along with the crown, he also inherited an empty treasury, which was a consequence of the financial drain due to long years of war. The treasury was further

burdened by the cost of maintenance of the King's court at the immense Palace of Versailles along with the army, government offices and universities. Cost to the treasury also mounted due to the fact that during Louis XVI's tenure, France

helped 13 American colonies attain freedom from their common oppressor, Britain. The wars added another one billion livres of additional debt to the already existing over 2 billion livres of debt.

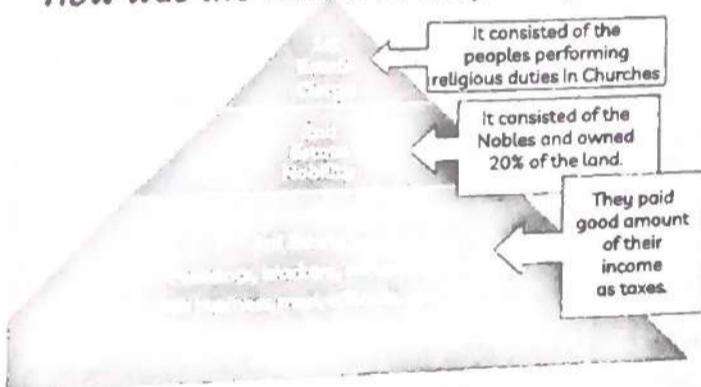
As a result, creditors started charging **extravagant interest rates** from the state. The state was forced to use an heavy portion of its budget to repay these interest payments. To meet the expenses, the state had to increase taxes. But this was hardly sufficient since in the 18th century, French society consisted of 3 estates and tax was paid by the members of only one estate- the 3rd estate.

Important

- The Bourbon dynasty ruled France establishing an absolute monarchy that peaked under Louis XIV and was demolished during the reign of Louis XVI.
- Livres was the currency of France till 1794. However, at present the currency of France is Euro.

The term 'Old Regime' describes French society and institutions before 1789. Its division into three estates dates back to the Middle Ages:

How was the French society unequal?



The Three Estates Structure of French Society

During the regime, the 3rd estate mainly comprised peasants, that is, around **90 percent of the total population**. However, very few of them were owners of the land they cultivated. Nobles were of the 2nd estate, the clergy men belonged to the 1st estate. The first two estates and a few rich members of the 3rd estate owned around 60 percent of the total land.

The members of the **clergy** and the **nobility** respectively inherited some **privileges by birth**. One such important privilege was **freedom from paying taxes to the state**. Traditional feudal privileges like extracting feudal dues from the peasants were some other benefits. By virtue of their position in the societal structure, the peasants were duty-bound to offer their services to the lord, including working in his field and house, and also serving in the army.

Important

- Two types of taxes levied upon the 3rd estate were:
 - (1) The **tithe** was the tax that was levied by the church, and it was around **one-tenth of the agricultural produce**.
 - (2) **Taille** was paid directly to the state.

These taxes also included numerous indirect taxes imposed upon products of everyday consumption. Thus, the 3rd estate, through these taxes, solely bore the burden of financing the state's activities.

Example 1. Case Based:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Jack is a French businessman who has enormous wealth. His friend Oscar also has enormous wealth, and he is a lawyer. They have another friend named Oliver who is a rich merchant. All of them were travelling through the countryside of France before the French Revolution, and they encountered a poor peasant named Leo. The peasant's condition was really poor, and he had minimal clothes over his body. During the conversation, they discovered that he did not even have adequate food to eat in his house. All of them gave them some money to help him and left.



- (A) Jack has enormous wealth as he is a successful businessman. Which estate does he belong to?
- 1st estate
 - 2nd estate
 - 3rd estate
 - He belonged to both the 1st and the 2nd estates. (Apply)
- (B) Which of the following statements stands true for Oscar and Leo?
- They were both employed in the same profession.
 - Oscar belongs to France while Leo is an immigrant.
 - Leo is bound to pay taxes to Oscar.
 - Oscar and Leo are classified under the same estate in French society of the old regime. (Evaluate)
- (C) Assertion (A): Jack is economically very rich, while Leo is extremely poor.

Reason (R):

Jack belongs to the 2nd estate, while Leo belongs to the 3rd estate.

- (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 correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct. (Analyse)
- (D) Enlist some professions of the people belonging to the 3rd estate. (Remember)
- (E) Give two reasons why the government had to raise taxes. (Understand)

Ans. (A) (c) 3rd estate

Explanation: Jack belongs to the 3rd estate. As told in the passage, he is a businessman and all businessman, however rich, belong to the 3rd estate. They pay taxes and do not have any privileges by birth.

- (B) (d) Oscar and Leo are classified under the same estate in the French society of the old regime.

Explanation: The estates were divided based on their birth and not economic status. Hence, in the given example, Oscar and Leo both belonged to one estate despite the difference in their economic statuses.



Related Theory

→ French society of the Old regime or order included all professions and employees under all occupations. Only the nobility and the clergy were not a part of the 3rd estate.

- (C) (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

Explanation: The division of French society was not based on economic terms, but it was based on the accident of birth. The old order classified royal blood under the 2nd estate and the clergy men under the 1st estate, and the rest were classified under the 3rd estate. Economic status had nothing to do with the classification.

- (D) The 3rd estate had a very heterogeneous character. The people included in it worked as lawyers, businessman, merchants, traders, peasants, city workers, artisans, labourers, shopkeepers, etc.

- (E) Two reasons why the government had to raise taxes are as described follows:
- (1) The burden of keeping the French administration afloat rested solely on the shoulders of the 3rd estate.
 - (2) To release state from tax burden.



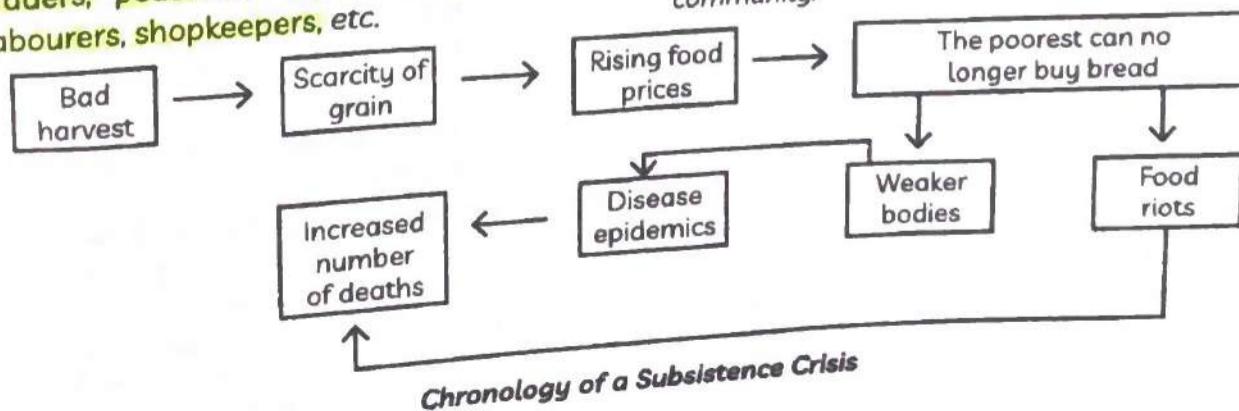
Artistic Representation showing Exploitation of the 3rd Estate

The Struggle for Survival

From 1715 to 1789, the French population increased from 23 million to 28 million. The supply of food grains was not proportional with the demand, and hence prices soared. Bread, the staple diet of the majority, became expensive. The wages of most labourers did not rise with inflation. As a result, the economic gap between the poor and the rich broadened. Droughts and hail storms added onto the pressure. All this together brought about the subsistence crisis. The Old Regime of France was marked by frequent occurrences of such subsistence crises.

Important

→ A subsistence crisis is a condition during which the means of livelihood are not enough to sustain an individual or the community.



The Growth of the Middle Class and its Results

The prosperous section of the 3rd estate had access to education and new ideas. Many social groups emerged in the 18th century who earned their wealth by manufacturing trade and selling their products either locally to richer members of society or by exporting overseas. This section of the 3rd estate consisted not only of merchants and manufacturers but also lawyers and other administration officials. Educated members of this section did not believe in the system of privileges granted by birth. They believed that a person's position in society must be decided by his merit. It was on their shoulders that the responsibilities to reform the social and economic order rested. Previously, due to the lack of resources, rebelling peasants had been incapable, of bringing about any far-reaching changes.

Such ideas which envisaged a society based on freedom and equality of laws and opportunities were proposed by philosophers like John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau.

- (1) Locke in his 'Two Treatises of Government' refuted the tenets of the divine and absolute rights of the monarch.
- (2) Rousseau proposed a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.
- (3) Montesquieu in 'The Spirit of The Laws', put forth the idea of division of power among the government organs like the executive, legislative, and judiciary.

Important

→ The 13 American colonies that gained independence from Britain were being governed based on Montesquieu's Model. The political thinkers in France looked up to the American Constitution and its guarantee of individual rights.

TOPIC 2 THE REVOLUTION BREAKS OUT

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the features of French polity as a Constitutional monarchy.
- Students will be introduced to the popular political symbols of the time and understand their meanings.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to enlist various political symbols and their respective meanings.
- Students will be able to recall more features of French society.
- Students will be able to enlist the events which occurred before and after the birth of the National Assembly.
- Students will be able to understand more about the features of the Constitution of 1791 along with the Declaration of Rights of the Man.

Interestingly, in the Old Regime of France, the monarch could not impose taxes on his own. He had to call a meeting of the Estates-General, which then could pass his tax proposals. This Estates-General was a political body with representatives from the three estates. Only the monarch had the power to call a meeting of this body at his own free will.

Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates-General on 5th May, 1789 to pass his tax proposals. The first two estates sent 300 representatives each, while the 3rd estate sent 600 representatives. The 3rd estate was mostly represented by its prosperous and educated

members. Although the poor peasants, women, and artisans of the 3rd estate were denied entry into the assembly, their demands were enumerated in a list brought by their representatives.

Although the representatives of the 3rd estate were more in number, their voting share as a whole was equal to that of the 1st or 2nd estate representatives. Louis XVI was determined to continue this voting principle. When the 3rd estate representatives put forth their demand that each representative is given an individual vote and not one estate as a whole, the King denied this. Consequently, the representatives of the 3rd estate walked out in protest.



Important

→ The democratic principle of voting was proposed by Rousseau in his book 'The Social Contract'.



The representatives of the 3rd estate considered themselves as representatives of the whole of France. They came together on a tennis court in Versailles and declared themselves a national assembly. They swore to draft a Constitution for the nation to limit the powers of the monarch. Mirabeau and Abbé Sieyes were their leaders.



Frequently Asked

- (1) Mirabeau was a noble by birth but was of the view that society should not be based on feudal privileges. He delivered exemplary speeches to crowds at Versailles and even brought out a journal.
- (2) Abbe Sieyes wrote a powerful pamphlet titled 'What is the 3rd estate?'



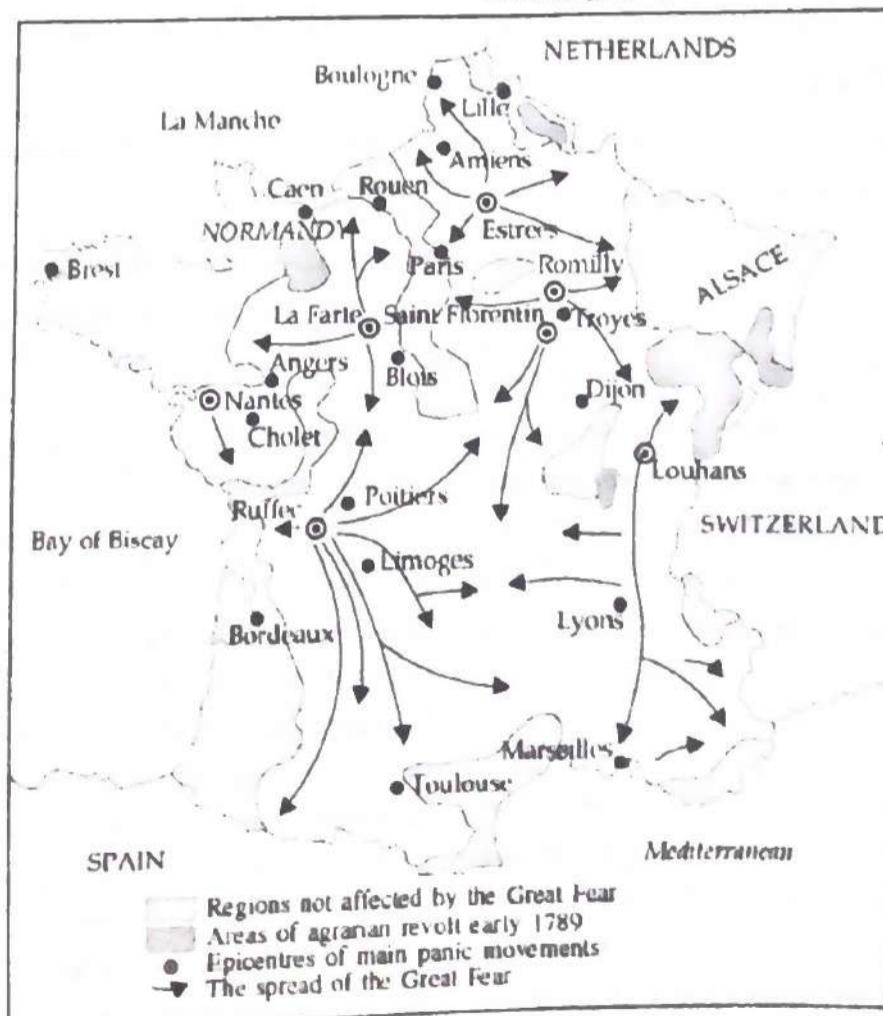
The Famous Tennis Court Oath

At the time when the National Assembly at Versailles was busy drafting a Constitution, most of France was in turmoil. Harvest had failed due to severe winter. To make the situation worse, bakers indulged in hoarding to further manipulate prices. Women stormed into shops in frustration after spending hours outside shops in queues. The King ordered his troops to move into the city at the same time. An angry crowd devastated Bastille on 14th July.

Rumours spread in the countryside that the bands of brigades hired by lords of the manor were on their way to destroy the ripe crops. Anticipating the destruction of crops, the peasants attacked the chateaux. They looted the grains and also destroyed documents that contained manorial dues. To avoid attacks, many nobles fled and some even migrated to neighbouring countries.

Important

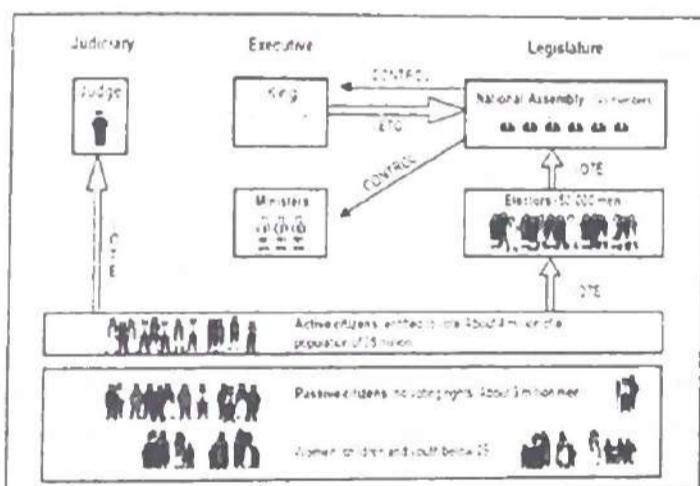
→ Chateaux is the castle or official residence of a King or Nobleman, while manor is the entire estate of the lord consisting of his residence and lands.



The revolt grew in size and finally, the King accorded recognition to the National Assembly. He accepted that his powers would be limited by the Constitution. The National Assembly passed a law doing away with the feudal taxes and obligations on 4th August, 1789. The Church's lands were taken away and tithes were also done away. Thus, the clergy was also deprived of their privileges. The government now hold assets worth a 2 billion livres.

France: A Constitutional Monarchy

In 1791, the National Assembly was finally done with drafting the Constitution. The main purpose was to limit the monarch's powers. Powers were distributed among various institutions like the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary. Finally, France became a Constitutional Monarchy.



Political System under the 1791 Constitution

The Constitution of 1791 enabled the National Assembly to make laws. However, the assembly was indirectly elected by a larger group of electors elected by citizens. Citizens themselves were divided into 2 categories. These were active citizens and passive citizens. Active citizens were men above 25 years of age and paid tax equal to at least 3 days of labourer's wages. They were given voting rights. The rest of the population (including the women) were categorised as passive citizens and were not given the right to vote.

Important

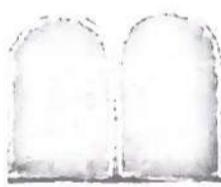
- In order to be eligible to vote and thereafter serve as a member of the national assembly, a man had to be in the highest tax category.



Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen

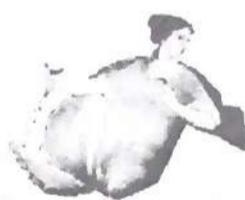
The French Constitution of 1791 began with a Declaration of Rights establishing many rights as natural and inalienable rights. These rights were to be enjoyed by every human by birth and could not be taken away. These rights included freedom of speech, right to life, freedom of opinion, equality before the law, etc.

Popular Political Symbols of the 18th Century



Law Tablet:

Represents equality in the eyes of the laws



Blue-White-Red:

National Colours of France



Bundles of Rods and Fasces:

Represents Strength



Broken Chains:

Represents freedom from boundations for slaves



Red Phrygian Cap:

Represents Freedom



Snake Biting its Tail:
Represents Eternity.



The Winged Woman:
Represents the law



The Eye within a
Triangle Radiating
Light. Knowledge
dispels ignorance

Sceptre: Symbol of
royal power.

TOPIC 3

FRANCE BECOMES A REPUBLIC

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn more about the evolution of French society from a monarchy to a republic.
- Students will understand more about Jacobin Clubs and their role in the revolutionary movements.
- Students will learn about the Reign of Terror— the values associated with it.
- Students will read more about the directory and the rise of Napoleon.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to read more about the features of France as a Republic.
- Students will be able to recall the betrayal of Louis XVI and his beheading.
- Students will be able to enlist the features of the directory.

Although Louis XVI signed the Constitution, he secretly entered into negotiations with the ruler of Prussia. France was in turmoil despite the adoption of the Constitution. The developments in France were worrisome for rulers of other neighbouring countries too. Together, they made plans to put an end to events that had been occurring since 1789.

However, before these plans could be executed, the National Assembly voted in April 1792 and declared war against Prussia and Austria. Volunteers poured in from various provinces to join the army. To them, this was the peoples' war against the aristocracy and the kings across Europe. Many patriotic songs were sung during the war. One of the most famous songs was *Marseillaise*, which was written by Roget de L'Isle. It is now the national anthem of France.

Important

- The national anthem is named so because it was sung for the first time by volunteers from Marseilles when they marched into Paris.

The revolutionary wars that France was fighting brought economic difficulties and losses to the people. Men were fighting at the front and at home, women were fighting to earn a living and look after their families. A large section of people wanted the revolution to be carried further. They were agitated since the Constitution of 1791 gave political rights to only the richer sections.

People discussed their possible plans and action strategies in the political clubs. The Club of Jacobins was the most successful among these clubs. Women also formed their groups. The Jacobin Club members mainly belonged to the less prosperous sections of society. Artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, servants, daily wage workers, and small shopkeepers were among the members of this club. Maximilian Robespierre was their leader.

Within the Jacobins, a large section started to wear long striped trousers to distinguish themselves from the nobles and other fashionable sections, who

wore knee-breeches. It symbolised the end of power wielded by the nobles. These Jacobins then came to be known as 'sans culottes' which meant those without knee breeches. These men also wore red cap, which symbolised liberty. Women were not allowed to wear red caps.



A Jacobin club member wearing long striped trouser



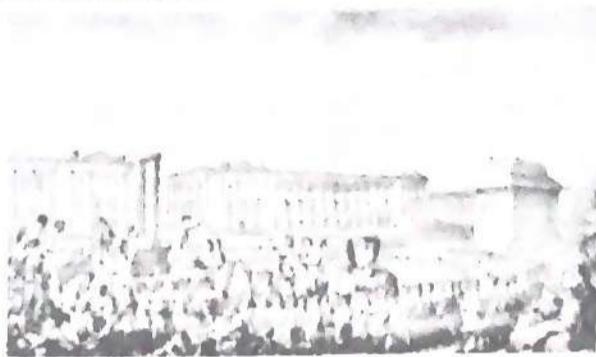
Liberty by a Female French Painter Nanine Vallain

The Jacobins, angered by the short supplies of food and higher prices, planned an insurrection of Parisians in 1792. These people stormed the palace at Tuilleries on the morning of August 10 and killed the King's guards. They also held the King hostage for several hours. The royal family was later imprisoned by the Assembly's vote. Fresh elections were held and from then onwards all men above the age of 21 irrespective of their tax-paying capacity got the right to vote.

Convention was the name given to the newly elected Assembly. The Convention abolished the monarchy on 21 September, 1792 and made France a republic. A court gave the death sentence to Louis XVI on the charge of treason. He was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde and the queen Marie Antoinette too met the same fate.

Important

→ The republican form of government is where the people themselves elect their government including the head of state. India is a republic.



Louis XVI being executed

Example 2. Case Based:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

John is part of a group that contains members from only the lawyer community and is actively participating in the French Revolution from one side. Breanna and her group are composed of people belonging entirely to the royal family and lineage. They enjoy various luxuries and are devoid of any struggles. Harry and his brother George are members of a group that is made up of people belonging only to the catholic clergy. All their ancestors have worked in the church. The French Revolution took place and all of them survived it and now they are to do a profit-loss analysis of their group.

- (A) From the above information, it is clear that the groups *per se* are homogenous. Who among the following belonged to the clergy?
- John
 - Breanna
 - Harry
 - All three belong to the clergy

(Understand)

- (B) When did the French Revolution take place?
- Eighteenth century
 - Nineteenth century
 - Sixteenth century
 - Seventeenth century

(Remember)

- (C) Who (of the four people mentioned in the case above) would emerge victorious in the context of power that they held before and after the French Revolution? (Evaluate)
- (D) Do you think any of the classes were losers in the French Revolution? Explain your stance. (Evaluate)
- (E) Assertion (A): Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote.

Reason (R): The 3rd estate has the most citizens classified under it.

- (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 correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct. (Analyse)

Ans. (A) (c) Harry

Explanation: It is given in the passage that Harry and George are members of a group belonging to the Catholic clergy. Their ancestors have been traditionally working within the church. This tradition has been continued by them. Thus, Harry and George belong to the clergy.

(B) (a) Eighteenth century

Explanation: The French Revolution occurred in 1789 marking the end of the eighteenth century. It promoted the ideals of equality, fraternity and liberty.

Related Theory

→ The eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of social group who were termed **middle class**. These people earned their wealth by **expanding overseas trade** and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen and silk textiles that were either **exported or bought by the richer members of society.**

Caution

→ It is important for the students to learn about the division of time periods into centuries. They must not be confused between the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries because the French Revolution occurred in 1789. To count a century, count one higher than the first two digits of the ongoing current year.

(C) Before the French Revolution, the power equations were tilted in favour of the 1st and the 2nd estate. Thus, Breanna, George, and Harry were dominant before the revolution. John belonged to the lawyer community and thus was part of the 3rd estate. However, after the revolution, the power equation in France changed and the privileges of Breanna, Harry, and George were taken away and, in this process, John and the alike were given similar rights as the rest of the people.

(D) It is true that some people believe that the 1st and 2nd estates were losers in the French Revolution but it is not so. Establishing equality is beneficial for all parties in the longer run. Equality leads to peace which ensures prosperity for all parties.

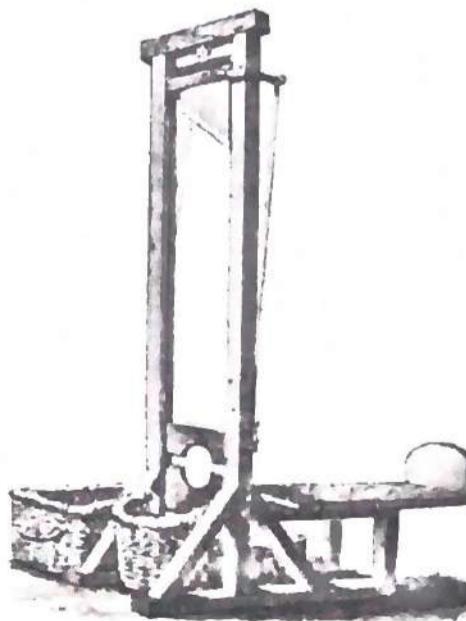
(E) (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

The Reign of Terror

It refers to the time period between 1793 and 1794. A policy of severe control and punishment was followed by Robespierre. He executed every person whom he considered as an 'enemy' of the Republic. It included ex-nobles and clergy, other political parties members, and even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods. He imprisoned them and then tried them by a revolutionary tribunal. If they were found guilty by the court, they were guillotined.

Important

→ A guillotine is a gadget that consists of two poles and a blade. It received its name from its inventor.



A Guillotine

Example 3. You have read about the spate of executions that took place during the reign of terror. In this context, explain what is meant by a guillotine and trace its roots. (Understand)

Ans. Broadly speaking, a guillotine is a crude machine that is used to execute people who are given capital punishment. It was invented by the French surgeon and physiologist Dr Guillotin. Thousands of people were guillotined during the French Revolution, including King Louis XVI, Queen Marie Antoinette and Maximilian Robespierre.

Robespierre's government placed a maximum ceiling on both wages and prices through laws. Both meat and bread were henceforth rationed. Peasants from the countryside were mandated to sell their grain in cities at a price already fixed by the government. The government also forbade the use of more expensive white flour and everyone had to eat the *pain d'égalité* which meant equality bread. Forms of speech and address were also invaded with equality. The traditional Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) were abolished and all people were to be addressed as *Citoyen* and *Citoyenne* (Citizen). Churches were also taken over and their buildings were converted into barracks or offices.

Example 4. The time period of the Robespierre's government is often only remembered for the ruthless reign of terror in which they executed thousands of innocent people. However, they did some good work too. What positive works did the Robespierre government do? (Understand)

Ans. The positive effects of Robespierre's government are brushed under the carpet due to the reign of terror that it unleashed. Some of the positive effects of the Robespierre government were:

(1) Laws regarding wages were made labour and peasant-friendly, providing essential relief to them.

(2) To overcome the problem of food shortage, the government indulged in the rationing of bread.

(3) The same quality of bread was provided to every citizen, whether rich or poor.

(4) Equality was practiced.

Robespierre implemented his policies so ruthlessly that even his people demanded moderation. Finally, a court in 1794 convicted him. He was arrested and guillotined.

Rule of Directory in France

When the Jacobin government fell, wealthier middle classes seized power. This new government introduced a new Constitution which denied voting rights to non-propertied citizens means the citizens who do not have land.

The new political arrangement consisted of two Legislative Councils elected by the people. These councils then elected an executive directory that consisted of 5 members. This was to avoid executive power in a one-man executives, like under the Jacobins. However, this arrangement was also not without problems. The Legislative Councils and the directory often clashed, and the Councils sought to dismiss them. This created political instability and made way for the rise to power of a military dictator named Napoleon Bonaparte.

Although France was still having concerns with the new political arrangement, the ideals that the French Revolution promoted like equality before the law, freedom, and fraternity inspired movements across Europe and even in France in the following century.

TOPIC 4

WOMEN IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the situation of women in French society.
- Students will understand about women's political struggles—their revolutionary clubs and groups.
- Students will learn about declaration of the rights of women.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recall details about the evolution of women's political rights and representation.
- Students will be able to recall the rights underlined by Olympe.
- Students will be able to recognise the various aspects of the condition of women in French society.



Parisian women marching to Versailles

Women participated in the events from the very beginning and contributed to bringing in many changes in French society. They anticipated that their contributions would put pressure on the revolutionary government to introduce measures aimed at improving their lives.

The women of the 3rd estate were poor and most of them worked to earn a living. They sold vegetables, fruits, and flowers in the market, worked as laundresses or seamstresses or as servants in houses of wealthy people. The majority of women did not have any access to education or job training. Only women born in prosperous families of 3rd estate or noble families could study in a convent school and shortly afterwards they were married off.



Women queuing up outside a bakery for bread

Working women bore the burden of all household chores like cooking, fetching water, looking after children and queuing up for bread as well. Wages of working women were also comparatively less than their male counterparts.

Women also had their own newspapers and political clubs. These served to discuss and raise their interests. Around 60 women's clubs were active in different cities in France. Their dominant demand was equal political rights for women.



Frequently Asked

→ The most famous women's club was "The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women".

Women were very dissatisfied with the Constitution of 1791 which reduced them to the status of passive

citizens. They wanted political rights like the right to vote, the right to get elected to the assembly, and also the right to hold any public office. Only then, they believed that the government could be truly representative.

In the beginning, the revolutionary government did take some measures that improved the lives of women to some extent.

- (1) They built state schools and made schooling compulsory for all girls by law.
- (2) The Marriage Act was enacted and marriage was made a contract that could be freely entered into and registered under Civil Law.
- (3) Girls could not be forcefully married by their fathers against their will.
- (4) Divorce was also made legal and could be applied for by both men and women.
- (5) Women also got the freedom to earn their livelihood.

The new government ordered the closure of women's clubs during the reign of terror and banned their political activities. A number of prominent women were arrested and executed. However, women's fight for equality of political rights continued.

Women's struggle for equality in wages and political rights continued in France and many other countries of the world.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also witnessed an international Suffrage movement for equal voting rights for women.

Important

→ French women finally got the right to vote in 1946 and the struggle and movements by French women inspired many movements to come in the future.

→ Olympe de Gouges was one of the most important politically active women in revolutionary France. In 1791, she wrote a Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen because women were excluded from the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen.

Example 5. Mention some basic rights set forth by Olympe de Gouges. (Remember)

Ans. Some of the basic rights set forth in Olympe de Gouges' Declaration were:

- (1) Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights.
- (2) The goal of all political associations is the preservation of the natural rights of women and men. These rights are liberty, property, security, and above all resistance to oppression.
- (3) The source of all sovereignty resides in the nation, which is nothing but the union of woman and man.

TOPIC 5

SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN FRANCE

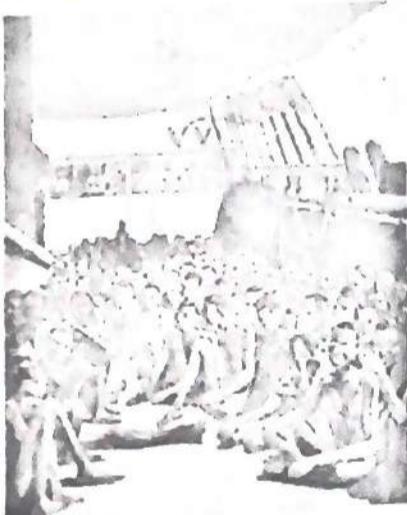
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about slavery—its evolution and journey in Europe.
- Students will understand the situation of slaves.
- Students will read about people's perception of slavery.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand why slavery was a crime and why it had to be abolished.
- Students will be able to enlist various features of the slavery system.
- Students will be able to recall more about the abolition of slavery.

The French colonies in the Caribbean like Martinique, San Domingo, and Guadeloupe were vital suppliers of commodities like sugar, coffee, indigo, and tobacco. However, Europeans were hesitant to go and work in such far-flung and unfamiliar lands. This created a shortage of labour in the Caribbean colonies of France. This shortage of labour for plantations was resolved by the triangular slave trade between Africa, Europe, and America.



Slaves being transported

Slaves were bought from African coasts from the chieftains there and were loaded like commodities to be transported through a three-month-long journey through the water across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. Here, they were sold off to the plantation owners.

One of the very vital social reforms introduced by the Jacobin government was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies.

Important

→ The eighteenth century did not see much criticism of slavery in France. Long debates took place in the National Assembly regarding whether equal rights of men should be extended to French subjects including the ones in colonies.

However, no such law could be made due to the fear of backlash from rich businessman whose economic interests could be compromised if such law were to be made. It was the convention that finally made a law in 1794 to free slaves in French colonies. However, it proved to be a short-term measure as Napoleon Bonaparte reintroduced slavery. It was in 1848 that slavery was finally abolished in the French colonies.

TOPIC 6

EFFECT OF REVOLUTION ON EVERYDAY LIFE

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the rules of censorship.
- Students will read about the rise of Napoleon as a despot.
- Students will learn the values associated with the French Revolution.

Learning Outcomes

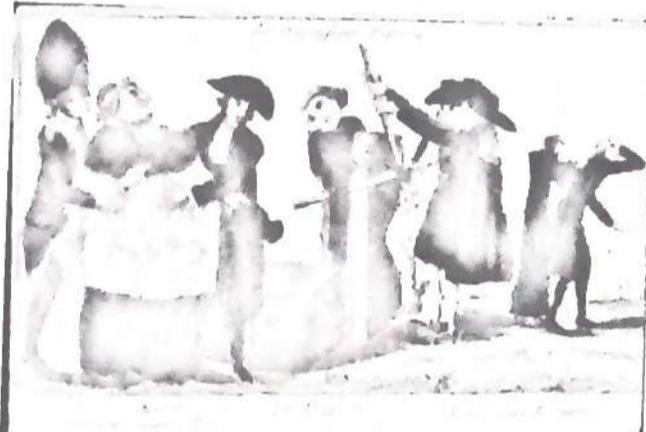
- Students will be able to enlist the features of French society during the eighteenth century.
- Students will be able to write various features of censorship and associated ills of the issue.
- Students will be able to recall and enlist various events tracing rise of Napoleon.



The lives of women, children, and men witnessed numerous changes in France post-1789. The revolutionary governments wanted to pass such legislation that would inculcate equality and liberty into the everyday lives of people.

During the Old Regime, because of censorship, all written material and cultural activities had to be approved by the King's censors before they could be performed or published. Books, newspapers, and plays were all censored. Censorship was abolished soon after the Bastille was stormed in the summer of 1789. Freedom of speech and expression was made natural right now by the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Cities, towns, and the countryside in France were flooded with numerous newspapers, books, pictures, and pamphlets.

It informed the public and elaborated on the important events and changes taking place in France. Views opposed to these changes and events were also expressed due to freedom of speech and expression. Print media became the medium through which both sides tried to convince the other.



Painting of the time depicting the ideal of justice

Apart from print media, there were various plays, songs, and festive processions that attracted many. This method was very useful since it propagated the ideals of the revolution like equality and liberty to people who could not read.



Jean-Paul Marat addressing people in those times

Conclusion

Napoleon Bonaparte made himself the emperor of France in 1804. He started to conquer other European neighbours. He threw old dynasties away and installed members of his family in those kingdoms.

Napoleon considered himself as the Europe's modernist. He brought many laws introducing a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system. He also brought a law for the protection of private property. In the beginning, people also saw Napoleon as a reformer and liberator who could bring freedom to people but soon the armies of Napoleon were seen as invading forces by the people.

In 1815, Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo in Belgium.

Important

→ Although Napoleon was defeated, the revolutionary ideas of freedom and other modern laws that he helped spread influenced people for a long time to come.



Napoleon Bonaparte

The ideals of democratic rights and liberty were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. The nineteenth-century saw the propagation of these ideas from France to other parts of Europe. Feudal systems were abolished in other parts of Europe too.



Frequently Asked

→ Tipu Sultan was highly influenced by the ideals of the French Revolution and he even planted a tree of liberty in India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was also impressed by these ideals.

People living in colonies of European nations across the world took inspiration from this revolution to achieve freedom and create their own sovereign states.



Glossary

- (1) **Bourbon dynasty:** This dynasty ruled in many European nations in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.
- (2) **Convent:** Building belonging to a community devoted to a religious life.
- (3) **Dictator:** A leader with absolute authority over a nation, particularly one who does so by force.
- (4) **Estates-General:** It represented the General Assembly of that time in France. It has representations from all the three estates of the time.
- (5) **Negroes:** A discriminatory/derogatory term used for the indigenous people of Africa, south of the Sahara. It is no longer in use.
- (6) **Pain d'égalité:** Equality Bread.
- (7) **Regime:** Rule/Reign.
- (8) **Revolution:** It refers to the drastic and sudden changes that take place in the governance system of a nation or region.



Who's Who?

- (1) **Nanine Vallain:** She was a French painter.
- (2) **Jean-Jacques Rousseau:** He was an important 18th-century political thinker. His thoughts on law and sovereignty influenced many French revolutionaries.
- (3) **Rousseau:** He wrote 'The Social Contract' which proved to be a significant influence upon the French Revolution and beyond.
- (4) **John Locke:** He wrote 'Two Treatises of Government'.
- (5) **Desmoulins:** A journalist who was executed during the Reign of Terror for his radical views.
- (6) **Jean-Paul Marat:** A journalist who owned the newspaper L'Ami du peuple.



Chronology

- (1) **1774:** Louis XVI became the King of France.
- (2) **5 May, 1789:** Louis XVI called assembly meeting for tax increment.
- (3) **20 June, 1789:** Tennis Court oath, 3rd Estate formed National Assembly.
- (4) **14 July, 1789:** Storming of the Bastille.
- (5) **4 August, 1789:** Feudal system of obligations and taxes and censorship got abolished.
- (6) **June, 1791:** Constitution was formed in France.
- (7) **April 1792:** National Assembly declared war against Prussia and Austria.
- (8) **10 August 1792:** Voting rights were given to all men above 21 years of age.
- (9) **21 September, 1792:** Abolition of monarchy, France became a Republic by forming Convention government.
- (10) **21 January, 1793:** Louis XVI was executed.
- (11) **1793 to 1794:** Reign of Terror.
- (12) **1795 to 1799:** Rule of Directory.
- (13) **December, 1804:** Napoleon became the emperor of France.
- (14) **1815:** Battle of Waterloo.
- (15) **1848:** Slavery got finally abolished.
- (16) **1946:** Women got right to vote.



OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Various people contributed to the French Revolution in various capacities. In this context, who of the following authored the book, 'The Social Contract'?

- (a) Maximilian Robespierre
- (b) Louis XVI
- (c) Jean Jacques Rousseau
- (d) Napoleon Bonaparte

Ans. (c) Jean Jacques Rousseau

Explanation: Jean Jacques Rousseau produced many works that inspired the revolution. One of his most inspiring works was 'The Social Contract' in which he provided the democratic ideals that influenced French people. 'The Social Contract' is also known as the Bible of the French Revolution.



Related Theory

→ Jean Jacques Rousseau is known as the "father of the French Revolution". His works influenced the enlightenment movements throughout Europe. His works shed light on modern political, economic, and educational ideas.



Caution

→ Students must remember the name of books, paintings and the persons who prepared them in the chapter, as they questions can be directly or indirectly asked from them.

2. The given image depicts the start of freedom struggles for French Revolution When did the French Revolution start?



- (a) 5 May 1789
- (b) 20 June 1789
- (c) 14 July 1789
- (d) 4 August 1789

Ans. (c) 14 July 1789

Explanation: The given image is of fall of Bastille. The French Revolution is said to begin with the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789. The Bastille was the fortress prison. People stormed the Bastille to find some hoarded ammunition there.



Related Theory

→ After this, an armed fight took place in which the people killed the commander of the Bastille and released the prisoners.



Caution

→ Students must remember the dates of important events, use chronology given in the book for better remembering.

3. The main objective of Constitution of 1791 was to limit the power of monarch. Under whom philosophy you may think that this happen?

- (a) John Locke
- (b) Jean Jacques Rousseau
- (c) Maximilian Robespierre
- (d) Montesquieu

Ans. (a) John Locke

Explanation: John Locke wrote 'Two Treatises of Government'. The book was a major statement of political philosophy. In this book he emphasises on to restrict the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch. It was published in 1689.

4. The Bourbon dynasty ruled France and many other parts of Europe for a very long time. It ruled in many places during the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Regarding this, which ruler of this dynasty ascended as the King of France in 1774?

- (a) Louis IX
- (b) Henry IV
- (c) Louis XIV
- (d) Louis XVI

Ans. (d) Louis XVI

Explanation: Louis XVI ascended the throne of France in 1774. He inherited the throne from his grandfather. He was the last monarch of France. He was executed, and with his execution ended the long rule of monarchs in France. Like all monarchs, Louis XVI was also tyrannical and despotic.

Related Theory

- Louis XVI was executed by a court on the charge of treason in 1793. He conspired to overthrow the Constitution by entering into a contract with the King of Prussia.

Caution

- It is important for students to remember the number suffix used with the name of the monarch.

5. Jacques, a blacksmith in Paris, noticed rising tensions in the city as news spread that King Louis XVI planned to increase taxes. One evening, while repairing a nobleman's carriage, he overheard that the King was going to impose higher taxes. Why the King needed more money?

- The State treasury was in debt.
- King extended help to the American Revolution for independence.
- Large sums of money were being spent to repay interest on the debt.
- Huge cost of maintaining a court.

Options:

- Only (I) and (II)
- Only (II) and (III)
- Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

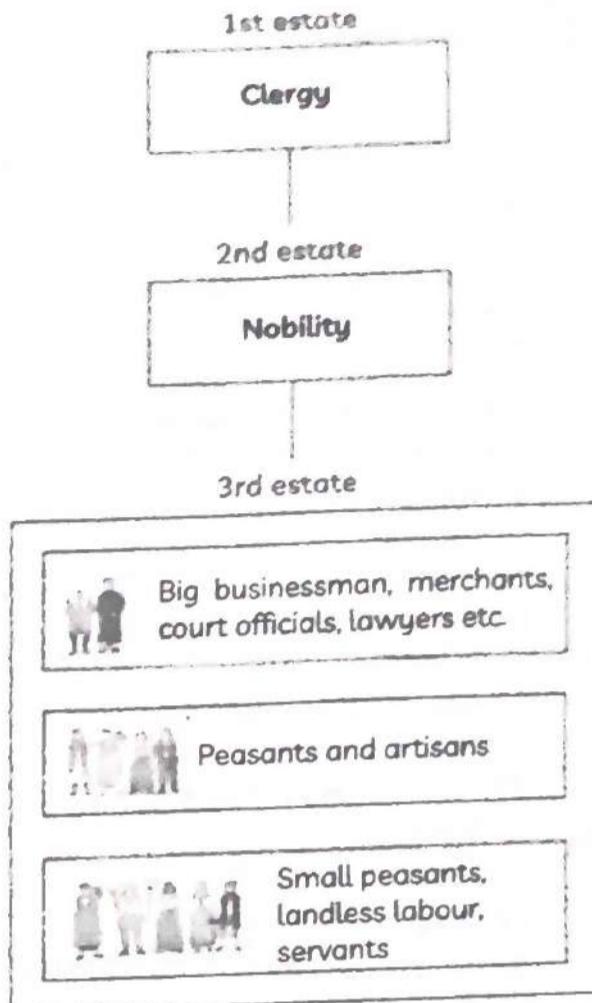
Ans. (d), (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

Explanation: When Louis XVI inherited the throne of France, the treasury was empty and the economic situation of France was fragile. Financial drain was caused due to long years of war. The treasury was further burdened by the cost of maintenance of the king's court at the immense Palace of Versailles. Cost to the treasury was also caused due to the fact that during Louis XVI's tenure, France helped 13 American colonies to attain freedom from Britain. Since France was under huge debt, the creditors were charging high-interest rates and thus large sums of money were being spent on repaying the interest on the debt.

Related Theory

- The country was already under the debt of 2 billion livres, after helping American colonies 1 billion livres more added.

- In this image, identify which of the following estates paid taxes during the 18th century.



- 1st estate
- 2nd estate
- 1st and 2nd estate
- 3rd estate

Ans. (d) 3rd estate

Explanation: French society consisted of a feudal setup in the 18th century prior to the French Revolution. The society was divided into 3 estates. The 1st and the 2nd estates enjoyed many privileges and paid no taxes. The 3rd estate did not enjoy privileges and paid taxes. The burden of the entire state finances fell upon taxes to be paid by a 3rd estate.

- When did Napoleon Bonaparte become the emperor of France?

- 1804
- 1806
- 1798
- 1794

Ans. (a) 1804

Explanation: Napoleon Bonaparte made himself the emperor of France in 1804. He started to conquer other European countries. He overthrew old dynasties and installed members of his family as rulers of those kingdoms. Napoleon considered himself as Europe's moderniser.



Related Theory

- Initially, many saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom to the people. Very soon, the Napoleonic armies came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.
- Many of his measures that carried the revolutionary ideas of liberty and modern laws to other parts of Europe had an impact on people long after Napoleon had left.

8. Which of the following was/were the characteristics of the Old Regime of France?

- (I) Written materials were available after they had been approved by the king censorship.
- (II) Members of 1st estate take taille from peasants.
- (III) King itself impose taxes according to its will.
- (IV) Anyone who is found guilty were guillotined.

Options:

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Only (II) and (III)
- (c) Only (III) and (IV)
- (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV)

Ans. (a) Only (I)

Explanation: Old Regime marked by the period prior to 1789 saw the genesis of the French Revolution. Books, newspapers, and plays were all censored. All written material and cultural activities had to be approved by the king's censors before they could be performed or published. According to old regime king itself cannot impose or increase taxes. He had to discuss it with Estates General.



Related Theory

- Censorship was abolished post the fall of the Bastille in 1789.



Caution

- Students might get confused with statement II as correct statement, but they need to remember that clergy take tithes from 3rd estate not taille.

9. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer.

Statement (I): In the 18th century, France had Guadeloupe as colony in the Caribbean.

Statement (II): Guadeloupe was very important colony for France as they supplied sugar, tobacco, coffee and Indigo.

- (a) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- (b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.
- (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

Ans. (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

Explanation: Martinique, San Domingo, and Guadeloupe were island nations in the Caribbean and were colonised by the French. These are tropical countries and thus indigo, coffee, tobacco, and sugar grow in ample amounts here. Europe needed all this, and thus these colonies proved to be essential suppliers for France.



Related Theory

- The slave trade began in the seventeenth century. This trade was met by a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas.

10. Faced with the power of his revolting subjects, Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now on be checked by a Constitution. Identify the correct information related to after effects of this:

- (I) The storming of the Bastille.
- (II) It was finally the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.
- (III) Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.
- (IV) The abolition of censorship.

Options:

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Only (II) and (III)
- (c) Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (d) Only (IV)

Ans. (c) Only (II), (III) and (IV)

Explanation: Storming of Bastille, happened before the acceptance of National Assembly by king. Abolition of censorship and slavery by convention in 1794 was implemented by National Assembly.



Related Theory

- Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where they travelled rapidly into the countryside. They all described and discussed the events and changes taking place in France.

11. Which of the following descriptions best describe Bastille?
- State prison
 - National memorial
 - France's capital
 - The official residence of the king in France

Ans. (a) State prison

Explanation: The Bastille was a state prison located on the eastern side of Paris. The monarch imprisoned people there, mostly those who opposed the monarchy. Most of the prisoners were political activists of some kind. Thus, the Bastille prison represented the king's despotic and tyrannical power.

Related Theory

- One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship.

12. Where was Napoleon finally defeated?

- Persia
 - Italy
 - Waterloo
 - Germany
- [Mod. DIKSHA]

Ans. (c) Waterloo

Explanation: In 1815, Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo in Belgium. Although Napoleon was defeated, the revolutionary ideas of freedom and other modern laws that he helped spread, influenced people for a long time to come.

Related Theory

- Napoleon introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.
- He captured the entirety of France at one point in his career as a despotic but firm ruler.

13. Which ideals of the French Revolution represented its legacy?

- Liberty and Capitalism
- Equality and Liberty
- Sovereignty and Liberty
- National security and Liberty

Ans. (b) Equality and Liberty

Explanation: Equality, Liberty and Fraternity were the most important ideals of the French Revolution. French society prior to the revolution was very unequal, where 1st and 2nd estates enjoyed privileges and paid no taxes, while the 3rd estate enjoyed no privileges and paid all the taxes.

Related Theory

→ Post-revolution, gradually, equality of treatment was introduced. Similarly, prior to the revolution, the king used to censor all books, artistic works, plays, etc., but post-revolution liberty of expression was provided and it led to the further proliferation of these ideals.

Caution

→ All values are not similar. Students should remember the exact values which the revolution promoted and advocated.

14. What do you understand by Taille?

- Tax paid directly to the state.
- The currency of France.
- A tax levied by the church.
- None of the above [Delhi Gov. SQP 2022]

Ans. (a) Tax paid directly to the state.

Explanation: Taille was a direct land tax on the French peasantry and non-nobles in the Ancient Régime of France. The tax was imposed on each household and was based on land possessed.

Related Theory

- The tax portion given to the church was tithes.

15. Slavery did come back and was reintroduced by a _____ after the Jacobin government. Who was this ruler?

- Louis XVI
- Robespierre
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Louis XVIII

Ans. (c) Napoleon Bonaparte

Explanation: Although the Convention formed a law abolishing slavery in 1794, Napoleon Bonaparte reintroduced slavery 10 years after the Convention abolished it. Slaves were bought from African coasts from local chieftains by French merchants. Since the race there is Negroid, the slaves were referred to as Negroes. Slavery finally ended in France in 1848.

16. The French Revolution saw the introduction of more than one Constitution in France. The National Assembly introduced the 1st Constitution in 1791. This was not a perfect Constitution, and many segments of society had grievances with it. Why were women unhappy with this Constitution?

- They were categorised as passive citizens.
- They did not get voting rights.
- They were not considered citizens at all.
- They already had enough rights.



Options:

- (a) (I) and (IV) (b) Only (II)
 (c) (I) and (III) (d) (I) and (III)

Ans. (c) (I) and (III)

Explanation: The Constitution of 1791 was progressive as it somewhat abolished the feudal system of French society in which only 3rd estate members had to pay taxes. However, this Constitution did not uphold the value of equality in French society. It divided citizens into active and passive. Active citizens had the right to vote while passive citizens did not. Active citizens were men above 25 years of age and paying tax equal to at least 3 days of labourer's wages. The rest of the men and all women were categorised as passive citizens and denied the right to vote.

17. Which of the following was/were the important reforms that Napoleon introduced?

- (I) Uniform system of weights and measures.
 (II) Law for protection of private property.
 (III) Standardisation of the system.
 (IV) Abolition of slavery.

Options:

- (a) Only (I) (b) (II) and (III)
 (c) (II) and (IV) (d) (I), (II) and (III)

Ans. (d) (I), (II) and (III)

Explanation: Napoleon Bonaparte introduced various reforms and considered himself Europe's moderniser. Most important among them is the introduction of a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system and law for the protection of private property.

Related Theory

→ Napoleon is remembered for introducing the Napoleonic Code and the reconstruction of the French education system as well.

18. When did Napoleon fight the 'Battle of Waterloo'?

- (a) 1804 (b) 1810
 (c) 1832 (d) 1815

[Delhi Gov. QB 2024]

Ans. (d) 1815

Explanation: Napoleon became the emperor of France in 1804 and introduced Napoleonic Code. He was defeated in Waterloo during the war in 1815.

19. The Triangular Slave Trade was between which three continents?
 (a) Asia, Europe and America
 (b) America, Europe and Africa
 (c) Africa, Asia and America
 (d) Asia, Africa and Europe

[DIKSHA]

Ans. (b) America, Europe and Africa

Explanation: The Triangular Slave Trade operated between Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The European merchants bought slaves from African coasts from the chieftains and transported them by ships to North America and the Caribbean. The slaves were sold there to the plantation owners. The slaves were exploited in these plantations where they worked. Raw material from these colonies was transported to Europe where it was processed into final goods. From here the final goods were transported back to Africa and Asia.

20. Mostly the women of the 3rd estate were involved in which of the following occupations to earn a living?

- (I) Sold fruits, vegetables, and flowers in the market.
 (II) Worked as a laundress and seamstress.
 (III) Worked as a servant in houses of wealthy people.
 (IV) Women started working in factories and industries.

Options:

- (a) Only (I) and (II) are true
 (b) Only (II) and (III) are true
 (c) Only (III) and (IV) are true
 (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) are true

Ans. (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) are true

Explanation: The women belonging to the 3rd estate were mostly poor. They were involved in revolutionary activities but at the same time, they also worked to earn a living. Most of them were not educated and had to do less-paying jobs.

21. Before Maximilian Robespierre seized power in France and banned women's political activities, the government had introduced many reforms that were progressive for women. Which of the following were such reforms?

- (a) Compulsory schooling for girls of 1st and 2nd estate.
 (b) Marriage Act enacted
 (c) Divorce made illegal
 (d) Women can run manufacturing units.

Ans. (b) Marriage Act enacted

Explanation: In the beginning, the revolutionary government did take some measures that improved the lives of women to some extent. They built state schools and made schooling compulsory for all girls by law. The Marriage Act was enacted and marriage was made a contract that could be freely entered into and registered under civil law. Girls could not be forcefully married by their fathers against their will. Divorce was also made legal and could be applied for by both men and women. Women also got freedom of livelihood as they could then train for many jobs, could run small businesses, or become artists.

22. Why did people storm the Bastille?

- (a) Wealthy friends of people were locked up there.
- (b) People had a criminal mindset.
- (c) Bastille represented the region of terror.
- (d) Bastille represented the King's tyrannical power.

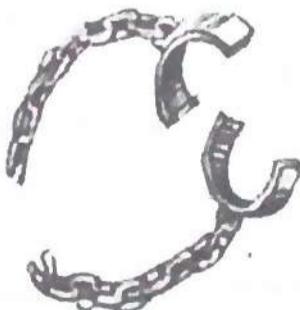
Ans. (d) Bastille represented the King's tyrannical power.

Explanation: The Bastille was a fortress prison located on the eastern side of France. It was the state prison where people charged with various offenses were put under detention.

Related Theory

→ Although only 7 prisoners were there when the Bastille was stormed by people, they did so because the Bastille represented the tyrannical power of the king and people wanted to challenge exactly that. People freed the prisoners and killed the commander in charge of the prisoner.

23. In 18th century France, the majority of people could not read or write. Thus to communicate important ideas political symbols were used. Identify the significance of the given symbol.



- (a) It symbolises knowledge.
- (b) It symbolises strength in unity.
- (c) It symbolised the act of becoming free.
- (d) It represented the personification of law.

Ans. (c) It symbolised the act of becoming free.

Explanation: When slaves were bought from African coasts, they were handcuffed. It was against their liberty and violated their most basic human rights. They were exploited. There were debates in French society about freeing the slaves and abolishing slavery in French colonies. This symbol indicates the freeing of slaves, it symbolises freedom.

24. French became a republic in

- (a) 1791, by National Assembly
- (b) 1792, by Convention
- (c) 1804, by Napoleon
- (d) 1848, by Louis XVI

Ans. (b) 1792, by Convention

Explanation: The Constitution of 1791 made France a Constitutional monarchy under Louis XVI. A new Constitution was drafted and this completely abolished the monarchy and made France a republic.

Related Theory

→ The newly elected assembly was called the Convention. On 21 September, 1792 it abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

25. Revolutions are fuelled by the writings of philosophers and writers. Revolutionary ideas ignite the fire of change among ordinary masses. Similar was the case in the French Revolution. Many philosophers contributed to the revolution. Which of the following philosophers inspired the French Revolution?

- (I) Jean Jacques Rousseau
- (II) John Locke
- (III) Thomas Paine
- (IV) Jean Paul Marat

Options:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (a) (I) and (II) | (b) (II) and (III) |
| (c) (II) and (IV) | (d) Only (I) |

Ans. (a) (I) and (II)

Explanation: Ideas that inspired and fired the French Revolution were given by many philosophers including John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu.

Related Theory

→ John Locke in his Two Treatises of Government refuted the tenets of the divine and absolute rights of the monarch. Rousseau proposed a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives. Montesquieu, in The Spirit of The Laws, put forth the idea of division of power in the government between the executive, legislative and judiciary.

26. Arrange in chronological order:

- (I) Louis XVI was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde.



- (II) Women in France won the right to vote.
 - (III) Olympe de Gouges criticised the Jacobin government for forcibly closing down women's clubs.
 - (IV) The Convention legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II), (III), (IV) (b) (II), (III), (I), (IV)
 (c) (I), (III), (IV), (II) (d) (II), (I), (IV), (III)

Ans. (c) (I), (III), (IV), (II)

Explanation: Louis XVI was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde in January 1793. Women in France won the right to vote in 1946. Olympe de Gouges criticised the Jacobin government for forcibly closing down women's clubs in 1793. The Convention legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions in 1794.

27. Who wrote the "Declaration of the rights of woman and citizen"?

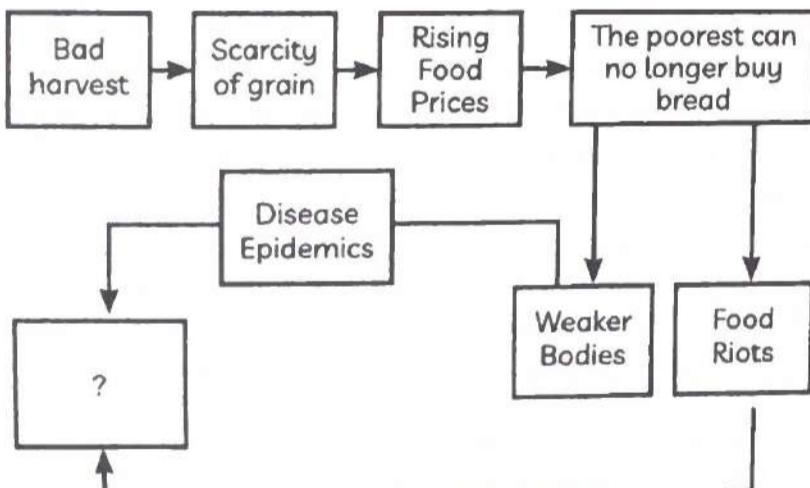
- (a) Montesquieu
 - (b) Louis XVI
 - (c) Napolean Bonaparte
 - (d) Olympe de Gouges

[DIKSHA]

Ans. (d) *Olympe de Gouges*

Explanation: Olympe de Gouges wrote Declaration of rights of woman and citizen in 1791 and represented it to the queen and members of National Assembly, demanded to act upon it.

28. What can be filled in the empty box?



- (a) Increased number of deaths
 - (b) Bloodshed riots
 - (c) Fall of Napoleon
 - (d) Migration of citizens

Ans. (a) Increased number of deaths

Explanation: Increased number of deaths will be the overall impact of all causes happened during the subsistence crises.

29. Censorship was prevalent in the Old Regime of France and content was censored by censors of
(a) King

Ans. (a) King

Explanation: The old French regime was a monarchy where kings had absolute powers. The societal setup was such that one section of people was discriminated against. King did not want the revolutionary ideas that were being produced by philosophers and artists of the time to reach the masses. The reformist ideas could lead the people to revolt against the king and install different governance and in this fear, the King, through his censors, censored all films, academic content, and other work of the sort.

★ 30. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order leading up to the abolition of slavery:

- (I) French merchants sailed from ports of France to African coasts.
 - (II) Napoleon reintroduced slavery.
 - (III) Establishment of triangular slave trade.
 - (IV) In 1794 laws were passed to free all slaves.

Options:

- (a) (IV), (III), (II), (I) (b) (II), (I), (III), (IV)
 (c) (III), (I), (IV), (II) (d) (I), (II), (III), (IV)

Ans. (c) (III), (I), (IV), (II)

Explanation: One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies which had hardly objected to Slavery earlier in the eighteenth century. The National Assembly held long debates about whether the rights of man should be extended to all French subjects including those in the colonies. The Convention abolished it in 1794. But, during the reign of Napoleon, slavery was reintroduced in France.

 Ref

- Plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave Africans in pursuit of their economic interests. Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

31. French women were classified as passive citizens by the Constitution of 1791. It was in 1946 that French women finally got the right to vote. Whom is most credited for this work?

- (a) Nanine Vallain (b) Abbe Sieyes
(c) Mirabeau (d) Olympe de Gouges

Ans. (d) Olympe de Gouges

Explanation: French women had to struggle for a very long for their rights. Women's struggle for equality in wages and political rights continued in France and many other countries of the world for a long time. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also saw an international suffrage movement for equal voting rights for women. French women finally got the right to vote in 1946. The struggle for equal rights for women is still going on in many parts of the world.

32. Why did representative of 3rd estate formed national assembly?

- (a) King refused to accede to their demand for proportional representation in a meeting.
 - (b) King declared divorce legal, hurting pride of 3rd estate men.
 - (c) The rich representative of 3rd estate found themselves as superior.
 - (d) The first two estates declared them as unwanted in the meeting.

Ans. (a) King refused to accede to their demand for proportional representation in a meeting.

Explanation: When the king called a meeting of the Estate-General, the representatives of the 3rd estate, demanded that voting rights be given according to proportional representation, that is, one person one vote, instead of the same voting weightage being given to each estate. However, the king refused. The 3rd estate in response formed a National Assembly to limit the powers enjoyed by the King.

33. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer.

Statement (I): In 1791, the National Assembly made France a Constitutional Republic through a Constitution.

Statement (II): Constitution of 1791 provides with more power to the emperor.

- (a) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
 - (b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
 - (c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.
 - (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

Ans. (c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.

Explanation: The Constitution of 1791 did not make France a Constitutional Republic. Instead, it made France a Constitutional monarchy, that is, although the monarch was still there his powers were severely limited and he was answerable to the elected representatives.

Related Theory

- With the passing of the 1791 Constitution, instead of all these powers being concentrated in the hands of one individual, they were now distributed among various institutions like the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

34. Even before the French Revolution, the king regularly called the meeting of Estates-General and took them into confidence for all his decisions. When was the last time he called the meeting?

- (a) 5 May 1798 (b) 14 July 1789
(c) 5 May 1789 (d) 20 June 1789

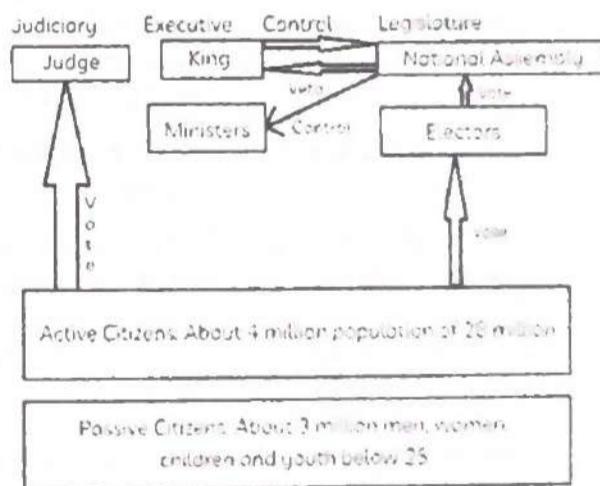
Ans. (c) 5 May 1789

Explanation: When the King decided to call a meeting of the estate general to pass his proposals on 5 May 1789, it was assembled after a very long time since it last met in 1614.

Related Theory

- The Estates-General was the body that needed to pass the approval of the King, however, it was very rarely assembled.

35. What state of women we can depict from the given image?



- (a) Implementation of 'Declaration of rights of woman and citizen' by assembly give women several rights.
 - (b) Women get the rights and can represented as judiciary.
 - (c) In the Constitution of 1789 women get their voting rights.
 - (d) Women agitated and took part in the French Revolution from the very beginning.

Ans. (d) Women agitated and took part in the French Revolution from the very beginning.

Explanation: It is true that women participated in the French Revolution from the very beginning. However, they were not happy and content with the outcome of the French Revolution.



Related Theory

- The outcome of the revolution, that is the change in laws and political system, did not grant women rights equal to their male counterparts. They were classified as passive citizens and denied the right to vote and get elected.

36. The developments in France during the French Revolution were very heartening for France's

- (a) neighbours (b) women
(c) emperor (d) residents

Ans. (d) residents

Explanation: The rulers who were ruling in countries around France were very unhappy with the French Revolution. It meant a risk of spilling over of these tendencies to their countries too. They did not wish to give away their powers so easily. Many of them even formed an alliance to restore the monarchy in France.

37. Read the data given below and answer the question:

Active citizens	Passive citizens
It constituted 4 million of the total population of 28 million.	It constituted about 3 million men, women, children and youth below 25.
They have the right to Vote.	They have no Voting rights.
In this also, only men above 25 years of age were allowed to vote.	In order to get the right to vote, they have to come in the highest bracket of taxpayers.

As per the table why only men were divided into active and passive citizens?

- As they have differences in their wages.
- As member under passive category were against this political system.
- Because men in passive category supporting women to include them in active category.
- Because member under passive category wanted absolute power of monarch back.

Ans. (a) As they have differences in their wages

Explanation: Constitution of 1789 divided the citizens of France into two categories.

(1) **Active citizen:** Men who pays tax and has the right to vote

(2) **Passive citizen:** Men below 25 and who are not able to pay tax, all women and children were under this category. They have no voting rights.

38. Match column A and B and select the correct answer using the codes below in the lists:

Column A	Column B
(A) Robespierre	(I) Philosopher
(B) Louis XVI	(II) National Assembly
(C) John Locke	(III) Emperor

Options:

- (a) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(III)
(b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(I)
(c) (A)-(I), (B)-(III), (C)-(II)
(d) (A)-(III), (B)-(II), (C)-(I)

Ans. (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(I)

Explanation: Maximilien Robespierre was a French lawyer and statesman, member of the Estates-General, the Constituent Assembly, and the Jacobin Club. He was a radical democrat.

Related Theory

- He led the Jacobin club which included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, as well as servants and daily-wage workers.

39. Match the items in Column A with that of Column B.

Column A	Column B
Members	Estates
(A) Lawyers	(I) 1st Estate
(B) Priests	(II) 2nd Estate
(C) Knights	(III) 3rd Estate
(D) Farmers	(IV) 3rd Estate

Options:

- (a) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)
(b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(IV), (D)-(I)
(c) (A)-(II), (B)-(IV), (C)-(I), (D)-(III)
(d) (A)-(IV), (B)-(I), (C)-(II), (D)-(III)

Ans. (d) (A)-(IV), (B)-(I), (C)-(II), (D)-(III)

Explanation: 1st Estate- Clergy

2nd Estate- Nobility

3rd Estate - Every other person included in every other profession

Related Theory

→ The members of the first two estates, that is, the clergy and the nobility, enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these was the exemption from paying taxes to the state. The nobles further enjoyed feudal dues, which they extracted from the peasants. Peasants were obliged to render services to the lord.

40. Match the items in Column A with that in Column B.

Column A	Column B
(A) Livres	(I) Symbol of Power
(B) Estate	(II) Currency
(C) Sceptre	(III) Classification based on birth
(D) Culottes	(IV) Jacobin club

Options:

- (a) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)
- (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(I) (D)-(IV)
- (c) (A)-(II), (B)-(I), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)
- (d) (A)-(IV), (B)-(I), (C)-(II), (D)-(III)

Ans. (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(I) (D)-(IV)

Explanation: A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers. This was to set themselves apart from the fashionable sections of society, especially nobles, who wore knee breeches. Thus, they were called Sans-culottes.

Related Theory

→ Sans-culottes men wore in addition the red cap that symbolises liberty. Women were not allowed to wear these symbols of protest.

Assertion-Reason (A-R)

In the following questions, two statements in the form of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R) have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the most appropriate option:

- (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 correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

41. Assertion (A): The economic situation in France deteriorated during the American War of Independence.

Reason (R): The French provide military support to the Americans.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: The economic situation in France was already dire and under such circumstances, France under Louis XVI decided to provide military support to the Americans during their war of Independence. Both the French and Americans wanted the rule of Britain to end in American colonies.

42. Assertion (A): The Jacobin Club members mainly belonged to the less prosperous sections of society.

Reason (R): Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself as France's emperor in 1804.

Ans. (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: Artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, servants, daily wage workers, and small shopkeepers were among the members of the Jacobin club. Maximilian Robespierre was their leader.

Related Theory

→ Napoleon Bonaparte was a military commander who rose to power in France by staging a coup. He crowned himself as France's emperor in 1804.

43. Assertion (A): Maximilian Robespierre oversaw the execution of thousands of people when he was a leading figure in the public safety committee.

Reason (R): Robespierre was killed by Napoleon Bonaparte when he came to power.

Ans. (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

Explanation: Maximilian Robespierre was the leader of the Jacobin Club, which was a radical group of democrats. When he was on the Public Safety Committee, he oversaw the executions of thousands of "enemies" of France. Most of them were guillotined. Robespierre was not killed by Napoleon but he was executed by the people themselves. He was guillotined in front of a cheering crowd.



44. Assertion (A): Slavery was abolished in French colonies in 1848 and has never been reintroduced.

Reason (R): Across the political spectrum in France people were against the practice of slavery and vowed to abolish slavery in French colonies.

Ans. (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

Explanation: Slavery was a dominant practice in French colonies back then. The people of France did not wish to work in colonies due to far-off locations. Plantation owners bought enslaved humans from Africa. Only a section of people in France believed that slavery should be abolished in French colonies and equal rights of men should be extended to the slaves too.

Businessmen and merchants were strictly against any idea to abolish slavery in colonies since the slave trade was very lucrative for them.



Related Theory

When the Jacobin government abolished slavery it did not last long as Napoleon reintroduced slavery in French colonies. It was in 1848 that slavery was finally, once and for all, abolished in the French colonies.

45. Assertion (A): France was made a republic in 1791.

Reason (R): The Constitution of 1791 limited the powers of the monarch.

Ans. (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

Explanation: Although the Constitution of 1791 was a landmark in the sense that it did limit the powers of the monarch. It also progressed in the direction of voting rights, though women and men below 25 were not given voting rights. However, it did not make France a Republic. It made France a Constitutional Monarchy.



Related Theory

→ The Constitution of 1791 was very forward-looking but it did not create lasting peace because it tried to bring sudden changes for which the French society was not ready.

46. Assertion (A): Napoleon is often referred to as the moderniser of Europe.

Reason (R): Napoleonic Code abolished the privileges based on birth, made merit the only criterion in getting government jobs and provided freedom of religion.

Ans. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: It is true that Napoleon is considered the moderniser of Europe. His contributions to modern societies were many. After becoming emperor of France, he did legal, educational, military, religious, social, and economic reforms. His Napoleonic Code abolished the privileges based on birth, and made merit the only criterion for getting government jobs, and provided freedom of religion.

CASE BASED Questions (CBQs)

[4 marks]

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

47. The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous section of society. They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, as well as servants and daily wage workers. Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre. A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers. This was to set themselves apart from the fashionable sections of society, especially nobles, who wore knee-breches.

(A) Who were the members of Jacobin Club?

(B) Who was Maximilian Robespierre?

(C) Which type of dress was worn by the members of the Jacobin Club? Why did the members of the Jacobin club wear this type of dress? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. (A) The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society- including small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, as well as servants and daily wage workers.

(B) Maximilian Robespierre was a French lawyer and statesman, a member of the Estates-General, the Constituent Assembly, and the Jacobin Club.



Related Theory

→ Robespierre campaigned for universal manhood suffrage, the right to vote for people of color, Jews, actors and domestic staff, and the abolition of both clerical celibacy and French involvement in the Atlantic slave trade.

- (C) A large group among the Jacobins began wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers to protest against the power wielded by the wearers of knee breeches. These Jacobins came to be known as the sans-culottes, literally meaning 'those without knee-breeches'.
45. Napoleon Bonaparte was such a personality of the West that he is taught in history books around the world. His contributions to modern societies are many. He reformed military organisation and training. His Napoleonic Code was truly revolutionary which later developed into Civil Law Codes across the world. He also reorganised the education system. His reforms left a prominent effect not only on France's institutions but also on Europe. Since he was a military commander earlier, the moving force behind his zeal to conquer was military expansion. He supported the Jacobins which were a popular and quite progressive party post the French Revolution in France. The Jacobins were known for the "Reign of Terror". In 1796 he was made the commander of the Italian army; Italy was France's client state back then. He led the army to victory against Austria. After becoming emperor of France, he did legal, educational, military, religious, social, and economic reforms. His Napoleonic Code abolished the privileges based on birth, and made merit the only criterion for getting government jobs, and provided freedom of religion.
- (A) At what rank was Napoleon Bonaparte placed before becoming the emperor of France?
- (B) Elaborate on the influence that the Napoleonic Code had on various societies and countries across the world including French society.
- (C) Explain the term 'Reign of Terror'.

Ans. (A) Napoleon Bonaparte was a military commander in the French army. He rose to the ranks due to his exceptional military skills. He staged a coup placing himself in power.



Related Theory

→ Napoleon Bonaparte manipulated laws and the Constitution to crown himself emperor France in 1804.

(B) The Napoleonic Code was a document beyond its times.

- (1) The law declared everyone equal before the law and privileges by the birth of nobles, churchmen, and rich people were abolished.
- (2) Feudal rights were taken away to put an end to the feudal order in society. Land reforms were done. Freedom of religion was also given.
- (C) Reign of Terror refers to the time period between 1793 and 1794. France's revolutionary government ordered the arrest and execution of thousands of people.

45. Maximilian Robespierre is remembered as a radical democrat during the French Revolution. For a short time, he headed the political club known as the Jacobin Club. There was another influential political club of the time known as the Girondin Club. It was dominated by Republicans and tilted towards the right. Robespierre suppressed the Girondists. The statesman Robespierre is held responsible for a "Reign of Terror" partly caused due to rivalry between his club and the Girondists. He considered ex-nobles and clergy, members of parties other than his own, and members of his party who had different views than his as "enemies" of France. He arrested and imprisoned them and they were tried by a revolutionary tribunal on an urgent basis. Most of them were executed through the guillotine. He oversaw the Reign of Terror as a leading member of the Public Safety Committee of France. It is alleged that he oversaw the execution of around 17000 'enemies' of France which were mostly done by guillotine. Robespierre did all this in the name of defending the ideals of the French Revolution. In the end, Robespierre and a few of his followers were executed by guillotine in front of a cheering crowd.

(A) Maximilian Robespierre was a controversial figure in the French Revolution. He was a leading member of the Public Safety Committee which oversaw the Reign of Terror. In this context which political ideology did Robespierre subscribe to?

- (a) Republican
- (b) Democrat
- (c) Communism
- (d) None of these

(B) Who all did Robespierre consider as enemies of France?

- (a) Women
- (b) Jews
- (c) Ex-nobles and clergy
- (d) Princesses



(C) Robespierre had a sizable following during the French Revolution using which he was able to manipulatively execute many 'enemies' of the revolution. How did Robespierre die?

- (a) He died in an accident.
- (b) He died in the war.
- (c) He was guillotined.
- (d) He committed suicide.

(D) What kind of democracy was followed by Maximilian Robespierre?

- (a) Non-violent Monarchy
- (b) Violent Democracy
- (c) Constitutional Monarchy
- (d) Radical Democracy

Ans. (A) (b) Democrat

Explanation: Maximilian Robespierre is remembered as a radical democrat during the French Revolution. For a short time, he headed the political club known as the Jacobin Club which was dominated by democrats.

(B) (c) Ex-nobles and clergy

Explanation: When Robespierre was a leading member of the public safety committee, he oversaw many executions

of what he considered as 'enemies' of the French Revolution. The people that he considered as enemies included ex-nobles and clergy, other political parties' members, and even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods.

(C) (c) He was guillotined.

Explanation: Robespierre created total fear in French society when he guillotined several 'enemies' within a week. He was ruthless and even executed people of his own party who did not agree with his methods. When things get worse and enough people turned against him, Robespierre tried committing suicide but failed and the next day he was executed through a guillotine.



Related Theory

→ The guillotine was an instrument that was used to inflict capital punishment upon people. It was used during the French Revolution and similar instruments were also used earlier in other European countries.

(D) (d) Radical Democracy

Explanation: Maximilian Robespierre is remembered as a radical democrat during the French Revolution.

SHORT ANSWER Type-I Questions (SA-I)

[2 marks]

50. When did the fall of the Bastille take place and why?

Ans. The fall of the Bastille took place on 14th July, 1789 because it was the symbol of tyrannic power of the monarch. It marked the beginning of the French revolution.

51. What was the idea of governance proposed by Rousseau and its implementation in France?

Ans. Rousseau proposed a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives. People of 3rd estate during the assembly of 1789 demanded to apply one man one vote, which is one of the democratic idea of Rousseau.

52. State the present-day significance of the patriotic song 'Marseillaise for France'.

[DIKSHA]

Ans. The Marseillaise was the patriotic song sung all over the Europe by the people in protest against kings and the nobilities. Present day Marseillaise is the National Anthem of France.

53. 'Louis XVI was the ruler of France when the French Revolution took place and he is also tagged as a very incompetent ruler of his dynasty'. Analyse the given statement.

Ans. Louis XVI belonged to the Bourbon dynasty of France and he was crowned king of France in 1774. During his ruling he got many chances to reform the society, but he did not make it happen. He was not able to connect with people of 3rd estate when they rose demand in the assembly, which results in the France's most unrest periods.

54. The calling of the Estates General on 5th May 1789 was an important event in the French Revolution. Why was it asked to assemble by the monarch? How did the demands of the educated members of 3rd estate reach the Estate General?

Ans. The King called a meeting of the Estates-General on 5th May, 1789 to pass his tax proposals to increase the taxes on people to tide over severe economic distress. The poor peasants, women, and artisans of the 3rd estate were denied entry into the assembly, their demands were enumerated in a list brought by their representatives. Thus, the 3rd estate had, although distorted, some semblance of representation.

55. What were the reasons responsible for the shortage of food grains in France when Louis XVI became the King?

Ans. There were numerous reasons for the shortage of food grains back then. Some of them were as follows:

- (1) The growth of the population from 23 million during the 2nd decade of the 18th century to 28 million in 1789 caused a huge shortage.
- (2) The supply could not match the demand for grains.
- (3) The occurrence of droughts and hail storms which damaged the crops added more pressure.

All this led to soaring prices of food grains which became a major headache for the people of France back then. (Any two points)

56. Louis, a small farmer in 18th-century France, struggled to make ends meet despite working long hours in the fields. Every year, he was required to pay multiple taxes to the king, the local lord, and the Church. Based on this situation, explain the important taxes prevalent in France during the pre-Revolution period.

Ans. Taxes prevalent in France before 1789 were:

- (1) The tithe was a tax levied by the church. It was around one-tenth of the agricultural produce.
- (2) Taille was paid directly to the state. It was a direct tax.
- (3) Many indirect taxes were levied on articles of consumption. (Any two points)

57. The National Assembly is an important institution in the French Revolution. The king

gave it recognition after initial resistance. In this context, trace the formation of the National Assembly.

Ans. It was formed across a long period of time:

- (1) After the king refused to bring any changes in the voting pattern of the Estate general they took a decisive step.
- (2) The 3rd estate representatives came together on a tennis court in Versailles' ground and declared themselves a National Assembly. They swore to draft a Constitution for the nation to limit the powers of the monarch and decided not to disperse till they are done drafting the Constitution.

58. The time when the National Assembly was indulged in drafting a Constitution for the nation was not peaceful for France. What problems occurred during this phase?

Ans. At the time the National Assembly at Versailles was busy drafting a Constitution, most of France was in turmoil.

- (1) Harvest had failed due to severe winter and consequently, bread prices soared. To make the situation worse, bakers indulged in hoarding to further manipulate prices.
- (2) There were instances where women stormed into shops after spending hours outside shops in queues.

59. How does the French Constitution begin and what rights does it provide at the beginning of the Document?

Ans. The French Constitution of 1791 began with a Declaration of Rights.

- (1) It established many rights as natural and inalienable rights, that is, the rights each human being enjoys by birth and could not be taken away.
- (2) These rights included freedom of speech, right to life, freedom of opinion, equality before the law, etc.



SHORT ANSWER Type-II Questions (SA-II)

[3 marks]

60. 'Subsistence crises is something that occurred frequently in France during the old regime.' Substantiate the statement with illustrations.

Ans. The beginning of the subsistence crisis is from a bad harvest which could be due to damage of crops or due to any other reason.

- (1) Bad harvest leads to scarcity of grains in the market which increases the prices of grains in the market. Food items of all sorts become more expensive than usual.
- (2) Due to this, the people can no longer afford an adequate amount of food.
- (3) This leads to weaker bodies and food riots in the neighbourhood. Weaker bodies lead to increased deaths due to diseases and sometimes to epidemics.

61. Define the term "Old Regime". [DIKSHA]

Ans. The 'Old Regime' of French society refers to the society and institutions of France prior to 1789.

- (1) It included the division of society into 3 estates.
- (2) The old order was dominated by feudalism or feudal order marked by the concentration of land resources in the hands of a minority.
- (3) The clergy were classified under the first estate and the nobility came under the second.

62. Louis Vuitton was a shopkeeper in Paris and heard a group of revolutionaries calling for action to storm the Bastille. Why people chose to storm the Bastille?

Ans. People chose to storm the Bastille because:

- (1) The King ordered the troops to move into the city and this created panic among people. The city was full of gossip that the king would order the army to open fire upon citizens soon.
- (2) A few hundred people among people's militia then stormed the fortress-prison

called Bastille. They did so to find some hoarded ammunition there.

(3) Bastille was widely hated by people because it represented the King's tyrannical power. Then the people demolished the fortress and sold the stone fragments in markets.

63. 'The citizens were classified into active and passive.' Substantiate the statement.

Ans. The Constitution of 1791 classified the citizens as active and passive based on the following points:

- (1) The basis of this classification was voting rights. Voting rights were given to active citizens and denied to passive citizens.
- (2) Active citizens were men above 25 years of age who paid tax equal to at least 3 days of labourer's wages. Similarly, the passive citizens included the rest of the men and all women.
- (3) Only the men belonging to the highest bracket of taxpayers were qualified to become an elector or a member of the Assembly.

64. When the National Assembly received recognition from the King, it effectively became a legitimate body to limit the powers of the monarch. Certain legislation passed immediately after this. What were these legislations and reforms?

Ans. The King accepted that the National Assembly was a legitimate institution and that the Constitution formed by it would limit the monarch's powers.

- (1) The National Assembly passed a law doing away with the feudal taxes and obligations on 4th August, 1789.
- (2) Church's lands were confiscated and *Tithes* were also abolished.
- (3) The clergy were also deprived of their privileges. The government confiscated assets worth 2 billion livres.

LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

65. You are a young scholar living in France in the late 18th century, just before the French Revolution. You have been reading the works of some philosophers. Mention the key philosophers and elaborate their works that gained popularity, and discuss how these ideas influenced the political and social transformation of France.

Ans. Philosophers did fire the imagination of the masses with their writings before and during the French Revolution.

- (1) They believed that a person's position in society must be decided by his/her merit.
- (2) Ideas that envisaged a society based on freedom and equality of laws and opportunities were proposed by philosophers like John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau.
- (3) Locke in his *Two Treatises of Government* refuted the tenets of the divine and absolute rights of the monarch.
- (4) Rousseau proposed a form of government on the basis of a social contract between people and their representatives.
- (5) Montesquieu, in *The Spirit of the Laws*, put forth the idea of division of power in the government between the executive, legislative and judiciary. It became the bedrock of modern governance.

66. The 3rd estate was not a homogenous group *per se*, unlike the 1st and 2nd estates. The 3rd estate consisted of people belonging to various professions. A section of them earned wealth during the 18th century. How did the social groups within the 3rd estate earn wealth and how did they contribute to the French Revolution?

Ans. (1) The third estate was formed by peasants, farmers, lawyers, clerks and all the other professions.
(2) This made up about 90 per cent of the population. A few of them had access to education.

(3) Access to education and some hereditary wealth helped the people from the 3rd estate become prosperous.

- (4) Others earned their wealth by manufacturing and selling their products domestically to rich members of society or by exporting them overseas.
- (5) This prosperous section of the 3rd estate was entrusted with the opportunity to revolt against the oppressive authorities during the reign of Louis XVI.

67. 'The discrimination that the people of the 3rd estate faced proved one of the reasons for the French Revolution.' Substantiate in detail about the three estates into which French society was divided.

Ans. French society back then was organised into 3 estates namely the 1st estate, the 2nd estate, and the 3rd estate.

- (1) The majority of the population belonged to the 3rd estate. The 3rd estate contained people like city workers, peasants, merchants, etc.
- (2) The 1st estate contained clergy who worked traditionally in churches.
- (3) The 2nd estate majorly contained the nobles. This structure was very discriminatory against the people of the 3rd estate.
- (4) The people belonging only to the 3rd estate paid taxes and bore all the burden. They were also denied any privileges by birth.
- (5) The people of the 1st and 2nd estates enjoyed a lot of privileges by birth and they were also exempt from paying any taxes.

68. The French Constitution of 1791 was a very celebrated document and it is documented in history as a major leap forward in the direction of modern governance. What were the major changes that it brought and what was the political arrangement that it put forth?



Ans. Major changes brought by the Constitution of 1791 were:

- (1) The Constitution of 1791 limited the monarch's powers and distributed them among various institutions like the executive, legislature and judiciary.
- (2) France became a Constitutional monarchy.
- (3) The National Assembly was given the power to make laws by the Constitution of 1791.

- (4) The assembly was indirectly elected by a larger group of electors elected by citizens. The citizens eligible for voting elected a group of 50,000 electors, and these electors chose the members of the National Assembly from among themselves.
- (5) The citizens eligible to cast votes directly voted to choose the judiciary. The National Assembly controlled the monarch.

SELF ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Arrange in Chronological Order:

- (I) Louis XVI commanded troops to move into the city.
- (II) France became a republic.
- (III) Robespierre was executed.
- (IV) The National Assembly voted to declare war against Prussia and Austria.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II), (III), (IV)
- (b) (II), (III), (I), (IV)
- (c) (I), (II), (IV), (III)
- (d) (II), (I), (IV), (III)

(Remember) 1

2. Match the following:

Column A	Column B
(A) Eye within a triangle radiating light	(I) Equality in front of the law
(B) Broken Chains	(II) Knowledge
(C) Red Phrygian Cap	(III) Becoming Free
(D) Law Tablet	(IV) Freedom

Options:

- (a) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)
- (b) (A)-(II), (B)-(III), (C)-(IV), (D)-(I)
- (c) (A)-(II), (B)-(IV), (C)-(I), (D)-(III)
- (d) (A)-(IV), (B)-(I), (C)-(II), (D)-(III)

(Remember) 1

3. Which of the following statements is(are) correct about the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen?

- (I) The Constitution of 1791 began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.
- (II) Men and Women are born and remain free and equal in rights.
- (III) Every citizen may speak, write and print freely.
- (IV) Liberty consists of the power to do whatever is not injurious to others.

Options:

- (a) (I), (II) and (III)
- (b) (II) and (III)
- (c) Only (I)
- (d) (I), (III) and (IV)

(Evaluate) 1

4. Identify the attribute allegorised in the given picture.



- (a) Law
- (b) Peace
- (c) Equality
- (d) Liberty

(Remember) 1

Assertion-Reason (A-R)

In the following questions, two statements in the form of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R) have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the most appropriate option:

- (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 correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

5. Assertion (A): The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution.

Reason (R): They were promoted by countries all over the world struggling for independence. (Analyse) 1

6. Assertion (A): One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship.

Reason (R): The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right. (Analyse) 1

Case Based Question

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

On 5 May, 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates-General to pass proposals for new taxes. A resplendent hall in Versailles was prepared to host the delegates. The first and second estates sent 300 representatives each, who were seated in rows facing each other on two sides, while the 600 members of the third estate had to stand at the back. The third estate was represented by its more prosperous and educated members. Peasants, artisans and women were denied entry to the assembly. However, their grievances and demands were listed in some 40,000 letters that the representatives had brought with them.

Voting in the Estates-General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote.

(A) Why did the king call the meeting of Estates General? (Remember) 1

(B) Mention in brief the constituents of each estate mentioned in the given extract.

(Remember) 1

(C) Which revolutionary incident took place as a consequence right after this assembly was called? (Remember) 2

Short Answer Type-I Questions

8. 'Napoleon Bonaparte played a significant role in modernizing France through administrative and legal reforms.' Justify the statement. (Evaluate) 2

9. Mention two rights set forth in Olympe de Gouges' Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens. (Remember) 2

Short Answer Type-II Questions

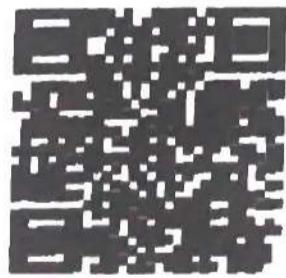
10. How did the Directory pave the way for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte as a dictator? (Understand) 3

11. Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment. Highlight three examples to support this assertion. (Understand) 3

Long Answer Type Question

12. Antoine, a young apprentice in Paris, grew up hearing stories of the King's extravagant lifestyle while his own family struggled to afford bread. Days later, he heard the shocking news—King Louis XVI had been put on trial and executed and France was declared a republic.

Based on Antoine's experience, explain how France became a republic. What conditions led to this transformation? (Analyse) 5



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