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# History

## Ch-1 The French Revolution

1. Why did Louis XVI found an empty treasure upon his accession?

Ans) Long years of war had drained resources of France. Added to this was the cost of maintaining an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy Britain.

2. Who belonged to 3rd Estate?

Ans) The third estate comprised all the people of France ~~and~~ except the clergy (first state) mobility (second estate).

3. What was the system of voting in the estates general? What changes did the third estate want in this system?

Ans) Voting in the estates general in the past had been conducted.

- 1) According to the principle that each estate had one vote.
- 2) Members of the third estate demanded that voting must now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where ~~now~~ each member would have one vote.
- 3) This was according to the democratic principles put forward by philosophers like Rousseau in his book.

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1st estate

Clergy

2nd estate

Nobility

3rd estate

Big businessmen, lawyers  
merchants, court officials

Peasants & artisans

Small peasants, servants  
landless labourers

Q) What was estate general?

Ans) The Estate General was a political body to which the three estates sent their representatives.

Q) When was last meeting of the estate general held?

Ans) The last time it was done was in 1614.

Q) Who was Mirabeau?

Ans) Mirabeau was born in a noble family but was convinced of the need to do away with a society of feudal privilege.

Q) Who were Abbé Sieyès?

Ans) Abbé Sieyès, originally a priest, wrote an influential pamphlet called 'What is the Third Estate'?

Q) Explain Tennis court oath?

Ans) On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes. The first and second estate had sent 300 representatives each and third estate sent 600 members. The members of third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by assembly as whole, where each member would have one vote. But the king rejected this proposal and the members of third estate walked out of assembly in protest. On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1789 they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles. They declared themselves a National Assembly and swore not to disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France. They were led by Mirabeau and Abbé Sieyès.

Notes

- Louis XVI had to increase taxes for reasons you have learnt in previous section.
- The Estates General was a political body to which the three estates sent their representatives to
- On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes.
- On 20 June 1789 they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles.
- On 14 July, 1789 the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille.
- On the night of 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes.

Q) How did France become a constitutional monarchy?

Ans) In ~~the~~ across the countryside rumours spread from village to village that the lords of the manor had hired bands of brigands who were on their way to destroy the ripe crop. Peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked châteaux. They looted the hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues. Large number of nobles fled from their homes, many of them migrated to ~~neighbour~~ neighbouring countries.

Louis XVI finally recorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now on be checked by a constitution. On the night of 4 August 1789, the assembly passed a decree abolishing the ~~feudal~~ feudal system of obligations and taxes.

Q) When did France become a constitutional monarchy? Mention the features of constitution drafted by constitutional monarchy.

Ans) France became a constitutional monarchy in 1791. The features are :-

- 1) The king came under the supervision of the government and France became a constitutional monarchy.
- 2) Feudal system was abolished.
- 3) The nobility and the clergy were stripped off of their privileges.

4) Taxes collected by the church were abolished and lands owned <sup>by</sup> the church were confiscated.

5) Power to make laws was vested in the National Assembly.

Q) Explain the non-feudal new political system under constitution of 1791.

Ans) The period of 18<sup>th</sup> Century saw the constitution being framed in France with which was meant to create the rules which <sup>were</sup> the rights respect everyone's dignity, were the rights will be given to the citizens.

• The France was made a constitutional monarchy on the basis the constitution drafted by the National Assembly in 1791.

Q) Which rights were established as natural and inalienable rights?

Ans) Following rights were established :-

- Right to ~~not~~ life
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of opinion
- Equality before law

Q) Write a note on Jacobin Club.

- Ans) 1) The members of Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society.
- 2) They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shopmakers, pastry cooks, & watch-makers, printers as well as ~~servants~~ servants and daily-wage workers.
- 3) Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre.
- 4) A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers.
- 5) These Jacobins came to be known as the Sans-culottes. Sans-culottes men wore in addition the red cap that symbolised liberty.
- 6) The Jacobins planned an insurrection of a large number of Parisians who were angered by the short supplies and high prices of food.
- 7) On the morning of August 10, 1792 they stormed the Palace of the Tuilleries, massacred the king's guards and held the king himself as hostage for several hours.
- 8) Elections were held.
- 9) The newly elected assembly was called the Convention.

Q) What measures were taken by Robespierre to bring equality in France?

Ans-1. The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the Reign of Terror. Robespierre followed of severe control and punishment.

- 2) All those whom he saw as being 'enemies' of the republic - ex-nobles and clergy, members of his own party who did not agree with his methods - were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by revolutionary tribunal.
- 3) If the court found them 'guilty' they were guillotined.

Q) Write a note on reign of terror.

Ans 1. Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.

2. Meat and bread were rationed.
3. Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.
4. The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden; all citizens were required to eat the pain d'égalité (equality bread), a loaf made of whole wheat.

5. Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address. Instead of the traditional Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) all French men and women were henceforth Citoyen and Citoyenne (citizen).

6. Churches were shut down and their buildings were shut down and their buildings were converted into barracks or offices.

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Q) Name the most famous political club formed for women in France and what were the demands of women in France?

Ans) The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of political clubs. They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to political office.

Q) What steps were taken by revolutionary government to improve the condition of women in France?

Ans) Following steps were taken by the revolutionary government to improve the condition of women in France -

1. Together with the creation of state schools, schooling was made compulsory for all girls.

2. Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will.

3. Marriage was made into a ~~contract~~ contract

entered into freely and registered under civil law.

4. Divorce was made legal, and could be applied for by both women and men.
5. Women could now train for jobs, could become artists or run small businesses.

Q) Explain the slave trade.

Ans) The slave trade began in the seventeenth century. French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains. The slaves were packed tightly into ships for three months long voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. Port cities owed their economic prosperity to the flourishing slave trade.