



HISTORY

9

THE AGE OF
REVOLUTIONS

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HISTORY

I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

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1. The first British colony in America was

- a) New York b) Philadelphia c) Jamestown d) Amsterdam

Ans: c)

2. The pioneer of French Revolution who fought on the side of Washington against the British was

- a) Mirabeau b) Lafayette c) Napoleon d) Danton

Ans: b)

3. Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson and Mirabeau wrote the

- a) Declaration of Independence b) Declaration of Pilnitz
c) Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen d) Human Rights Charter

Ans: c)

4. The defeat of British at paved the way for the friendship between France and America.

- a) Trenton b) Saratoga c) Pennsylvania d) New York

Ans: b)

5. was the symbol of "Royal Despotism" in France.

- a) Versailles Palace b) Prison of Bastille
c) Paris Commune d) Estates General

Ans: b)

6. The forces of Austria and Prussia were defeated by the French Revolutionary forces at

- a) Verna b) Versailles c) Pilnitz d) Valmy

Ans: d)

7. Candide was written by

- a) Voltaire b) Rousseau c) Montesquieu d) Danton

Ans: a)

8. The moderate liberals who wanted to retain Louis XVI as a limited monarchy were called

- a) Girondins b) Jacobins c) Emigres d) Royalists

Ans: a)

9. American War of Independence was ended with the Peace of Paris in the year

- a) 1776 b) 1779 c) 1781 d) 1783

Ans: d)

10. Thomas Paine's famous pamphlet was

- a) Common Sense b) Rights of Man
c) Bill of Rights d) Abolition of Slavery

Ans: a)

ADDITIONAL

11. The Dutch founded a town in North America and called it
 a) North Carolina b) New Amsterdam
 c) New Jersey d) New Hampshire **Ans: b)**
12. The Seven Years War (1756-63) was fought between Britain and
 a) Germany b) America c) France d) Portugal **Ans: c)**
13. The Stamp Act was passed by the British government in
 a) 1865 b) 1765 c) 1567 d) 1857 **Ans: b)**
14. 'Daughters of Liberty', women organisation was formed in
 a) India b) Canada c) Britain d) America **Ans: d)**
15. declared that 1st June 1774 would be a day of fasting and prayer.
 a) Thomas Jefferson b) George Washington
 c) George Fox d) Cornwallis **Ans: a)**
16. On 5th Sep. 1774, the first Continental Congress met in
 a) New York b) Washington c) Philadelphia d) California **Ans: c)**
17. The Battle of Banker Hill, the first major battle was fought in
 a) Massachusetts b) Chicago c) Canada d) Virginia **Ans: a)**
18. The British defeat at Saratoga paved the way for an alliance between and Americans.
 a) France b) United Kingdom c) Germany d) Spain **Ans: a)**
19. In 1783, the Peace of was signed in which England agreed to the independence of the United States.
 a) Washington b) London c) Paris d) Rome **Ans: c)**
20. The British forces departed from Yorktown, America in
 a) 1781 b) 1791 c) 1801 d) 1811 **Ans: a)**
21. Latin Americans strived for the overthrow of the Empire from South America.
 a) French b) Portuguese c) British d) Spanish **Ans: d)**
22. The Industrial Revolution laid the foundations for
 a) Socialism b) Capitalism c) Monarchism d) Optimism **Ans: b)**
23. The French Revolution exploded in
 a) 1783 b) 1857 c) 1789 d) 1881 **Ans: c)**
24. Louis XV was succeeded by his Louis XVI in 1774.
 a) Father b) Son c) Grandson d) Nephew **Ans: c)**

25. The French government collected (one tenth of the annual produce or earnings) from the common people.

- a) Jizya b) Tithe c) Gabelle d) Corvee **Ans: b)**

26. In France, the traditional hereditary nobles known as 'Nobles of the enjoyed hunting rights.

- a) Gold b) Battle c) Sword d) Cannon **Ans: c)**

27. The middle class and the peasants of France together formed the Estate.

- a) First b) Second c) Third d) Fourth **Ans: c)**

28. The famous work of Voltaire was

- a) Candide b) Tithe c) Social Contract d) Das Capital **Ans: a)**

29. The French people rose in revolt in Paris on

- a) 15th Aug. 1947 b) 14th July 1789 c) 26th Jan. 1950 d) 1st May 2000 **Ans: b)**

30. Louis XVI along with family decided to escape from Paris to a border town.

- a) Moscow b) Warsaw c) Rome d) Varennes **Ans: d)**

31. The Reign of Terror ended with the fall of

- a) Robespierre b) Danton c) Marat d) Herbert **Ans: a)**

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

1. The Postmaster General of the Postal Department of the government of Continental Congress was **Ans: Benjamin Franklin**

2. The battle of Bunker Hill was fought on **Ans: 17th June 1775**

3. The Act insisted on repaying the debt in gold or silver. **Ans: Currency**

4. The leader of National Assembly of France was **Ans: Mirabeau**

5. was guillotined for organizing a Festival of Liberty. **Ans: Herbert**

6. Louis XVI was arrested at with his family when he tried to escape from France.

Ans: Varennes

ADDITIONAL

7. Pennsylvania was named after the **Ans: Quaker Penn**

8. The English changed the name New Amsterdam into **Ans: NewYork**

9. In the Seven Years War (1756-63), Britain defeated France and took control of **Ans: Canada**

10. The preamble of provided the slogan 'No Taxation without Representation'.

Ans: Sugar Act

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11. The of 1765 forced the colonies to pay for the cost of keeping British troops in America.
Ans: Quartering Act
12. In, the American colonists unloaded the tea and let it rot in the dock.
Ans. Charlestown
13. was a challenge which led to war between the rebellious colonies and England.
Ans: Boston Tea Party
14. The famous battle cry of the Americans was **Ans: no taxation without representation**
15. The American Militia force (band of soldiers) is popularly known as
Ans: Green Mountain Boys
16. The 'Common Sense' was published in 1776 which was authored by
Ans: Thomas Paine
17. George Washington remarked '.....' is working a powerful change in the minds of men.
Ans: Common Sense
18. The Declaration of Independence stated that 'All men are born'
Ans: Equal
19. As per the Articles of Confederation, the and the State were separated.
Ans: Church
20. The Estates General of France consisted of representatives of three
Ans: Estates
21. Louis XVI was entirely under the influence of his wife **Ans: Marie Antoinette**
22. On the eve of French Revolution, France was going through a period of crisis.
Ans: Economic
23. At the time of French Revolution, a vast number of people had become professional
Ans: Beggars
24. The, despite being a minority, occupied a preeminent position in France.
Ans: Clergy
25. In France, the Third Estate was contributed by the representatives of
Ans: Peasants
26. The statement "Man is born free, but is everywhere in chains" was given by
Ans: Rousseau
27. The theory of "Separation of powers" was put forth by **Ans: Montesquieu**
28. The fall of the was the first great turning point in the revolution.
Ans: Bastille



III. CHOOSE THE CORRECT STATEMENT.

1. i) The Portuguese were the pioneers of naval expeditions. (F)
 ii) New Plymouth was named after the Quaker Penn. (F)
 iii) Quakers have the reputation of encouraging wars. (F)
 iv) The English changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York. (T)
 a) i & ii are correct b) iii is correct c) iv is correct d) i & iv are correct **Ans: c)**

2. i) The American War of Independence was as much a civil war as a war against the British. (F)
 ii) The British forces emerged victorious in York Town. (F)
 iii) The nobles in France were supportive of the rising middle class. (T)
 iv) The British Parliament repealed the Townshend Act except the tax on paper. (F)
 a) i & ii are correct b) iii is correct c) iv is correct d) i & iv are correct **Ans: b)**

3. Assertion (A) : Merchants of Boston boycotted the British goods.
 Reason (R) : The British Finance Minister introduced new duties on imports into American colonies.
 a) A is correct and R is not the explanation of A
 b) A is incorrect and R is not the explanation of A
 c) A is correct and R is the explanation of A
 d) Both 'A' and 'R' are incorrect **Ans: b)**

4. Assertion (A) : There was a massive peasant revolt in the Vendee against conscriptions.
 Reason (R) : The peasants as supporters of the king did not like to fight against him.
 a) Both A and R are incorrect b) Both A and R are correct
 c) A is correct and R is incorrect d) A is incorrect and R is correct **Ans: a)**

ADDITIONAL

1. i) The National Convention created a Republican Calendar for France. (T)
 ii) All references to religion found in the old calendar's name were deleted. (T)
 iii) In this secular calendar, the twelve months of the year were named after natural elements. (T)
 iv) The republican calendar was accepted by Napoleon in Jan. 1806. (F)
 a) i & ii are correct b) i, ii & iii are correct
 c) iii & iv are correct d) i & iv are correct **Ans: b)**

2. i) The Second Continental Congress met in May 1775 at Philadelphia. (F)
 ii) John Adams, Sam Adams, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Jefferson were some of the prominent members of the Congress. (T)
 iii) It organised the army gathered around Boston as the Continental Army. (T)
 iv) It was placed under the command of George Washington. (T)
 a) i & ii are correct b) i, ii & iii are correct
 c) ii, iii & iv are correct d) i & iv are correct **Ans: c)**

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3. i) The Portuguese and Spanish were the pioneers in geographical explorations. (T)
 ii) The English lagged far behind in their colonisation efforts. (T)
 iii) Mexico was under the control of the French Government. (F)
 iv) Quakers were members of a Jewish group called the Society of Servants. (F)

- a) i & ii are correct
 b) i, ii & iii are correct
 c) ii, iii & iv are correct
 d) i & iv are correct

Ans: a)

4. i) The Seven Years War was fought between England and Portugal. (F)
 ii) The war cost the English heavily. (T)
 iii) The British ministers proposed that the American colonies pay some of the cost of war. (T)
 iv) A series of taxes were imposed on the colonists. (T)

- a) i & iii are correct
 b) i, iii & iv are correct
 c) ii, iii & iv are correct
 d) i alone correct.

Ans: c)

5. Assertion (A) : Puritans of England moved to North America and settled there.
 Reason (R) : The Stuart kings, James I and Charles I did not tolerate their attempts to reform the Church of England.

- a) A is correct and R is not the explanation of A
 b) A is incorrect and R is not the explanation of A
 c) A is correct and R is the explanation of A
 d) Both 'A' and 'R' are incorrect

Ans: c)

6. Assertion (A) : There was an intense anti-British propaganda through newspapers, posters and pamphlets in America.

Reason (R) : The British Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts.

- a) A is correct and R is not the explanation of A
 b) A is incorrect and R is not the explanation of A
 c) A is correct and R is the explanation of A
 d) Both 'A' and 'R' are incorrect

Ans: a)

7. Assertion (A) : At the time of revolution, the French treasury was bankrupt.
 Reason (R) : French involvement in Seven Years War that ended in defeat

- a) A is correct and R is not the explanation of A
 b) A is incorrect and R is not the explanation of A
 c) A is correct and R is the explanation of A
 d) Both 'A' and 'R' are incorrect

Ans: c)

IV. MATCH THE FOLLOWING.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. John Winthrop | - a) France Finance Minister |
| 2. Turgot | - b) July 4 |
| 3. The Spirit of laws | - c) Britain and France |
| 4. Marie Antoinette | - d) Massachusetts Bay |
| 5. Seven years war | - e) Louis XVI |
| 6. American Independence Day | - f) Montesquieu |

Ans: 1-a 2-d 3-f 4-e 5-c 6-b

**ADDITIONAL**

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. Louis XVI | - a) French philosopher | |
| 8. George Washington | - b) Reign of Terror | |
| 9. George Fox | - c) American War of Independence | |
| 10. Montesquieu | - d) French Emperor | |
| 11. Robespierre | - e) Society of Friends | Ans: 7-d 8-c 9-e 10-a 11-b |
| | | |
| 12. Sugar Act | - a) 1789 | |
| 13. Townshend Acts | - b) 1773 | |
| 14. Quartering Act | - c) 1764 | |
| 15. Fall of Bastille | - d) 1767 | |
| 16. Boston Tea Party | - e) 1765 | Ans: 12-c 13-d 14-e 15-a 16-b |

V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BRIEFLY.**1. Who were Puritans? Why did they leave England?**

- The reformers of England who protested the teachings and practices of Roman Catholic church were known as Puritans.
- The Stuart kings, James I and Charles I, did not tolerate their attempt to reform the Church of England.
- They ordered to persecute the Puritans.
- So, The Puritans left England.

2. What do you know about the Quakers?

- Quakers were members of a Christian group called the Society of Friends.
- They laid emphasis on the Holy Spirit, rejected outward rites and an ordained ministry.
- George Fox was the founder of the society in England.
- Quakers have the reputation of actively working for peace and opposing war.

3. Point out the significance of "the Boston Tea Party".

- The British Government passed the Townshend Acts in 1767.
- As per the Act, they introduced duties on imports to colonies such as glass, paper, paint, lead and tea.
- Against this, the American colonists obstructed the import of tea in many places.
- In Dec. 1773, a group of men disguised themselves as Native Americans boarded the cargo vessels and threw the tea overboard.
- This incident is hailed as the 'Boston Tea Party'.

4. Attempt an account of "September Massacres".

- In August 1791, Austria and Prussia together tried to restore monarchy in France and sent their forces to France.

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- Immediately, the revolutionary Commune of Paris hoisted Red Flag to signify the enforcement of martial law.
- The revolutionaries suspected and attacked the king and his supporters.
- In three days from Sep. 2nd, about 1500 suspected dissidents were put in prison. After the trial, they were killed.
- This incident is called 'September massacres'.

5. Explain the composition of "Three Estates of France".

The three 'Estates of France' consisted of i) Clergy, ii) nobles and iii) Commons.

- The clergy class consisted of men and women ordained for religious duties.
- The noble class comprised of lawyers, rich merchants, bankers and businessmen and wealthy landlords.
- The common group consisted of poor peasants, labours, artisans and slaves.
- Clergy occupied a preeminent position in France. They collected tithe from the common people.

6. Sketch the role of Lafayette in the French Revolution.

- Lafayette was French by birth. He was born in 1757.
- In the American War of Independence, he supported Washington and fought against the British.
- Later, during the French Revolution, he served the French National Guard as its Commander.
- He penned the Declaration of the Rights of man and the Citizen, one of historical documents about human and civil rights with the help of Jefferson.
- In Aug. 1789, the National Assembly of France adopted the Declaration.

7. What was the background for the storming of Bastille Prison?

- Louis XVI, the Emperor of France summoned the Estate General in May 1789.
- The representatives of the third estate namely the Commons were not allowed to participate in the meeting.
- So, they proclaimed themselves a National Assembly and decided not to disperse until to give them a constitution.
- The king tried to use his force but his own soldiers refused to obey his orders.
- Louis then intrigued to get foreign regiments to shoot down his own people.
- This provoked the people and they stormed the Bastille Prison on 14 July 1789.

8. What were the taxes the peasants had to pay in France on the eve of Revolution?

Tithes : A type of tax collected by churches which was collected from peasants.

Taille : Land tax and also a type of direct and indirect tax which was paid to the state by members of third estate in French Society.

Gabelle : It was levied on items used for daily consumption, such as tobacco, salt, etc.

**ADDITIONAL****9. Name the 13 colonies that were under the control of British.**

By the end of the 18th century, there were thirteen colonies on the East coast Of America. All the colonies were under the British control.

The 13 colonies (from north to south) were - Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

10. Why did the British impose series of taxes on the American colonists?

- The Seven Years War of 1756-63 between Britain and France had centred on the control of colonies, especially in North America.
- Britain defeated France and took control of Canada. But the war cost the English heavily.
- The British ministers proposed that the American colonists pay some of the cost of the war.
- So a series of taxes were imposed on the colonists.

11. Write a note on 'Sons of Liberty'.

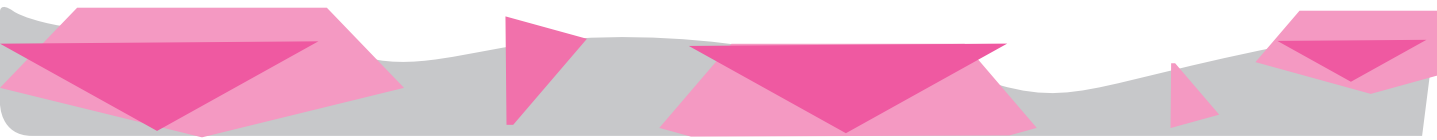
- The American colonists protested against all the taxes imposed by the British.
- The protests occurred at different levels of society.
- At the top, delegates from the colonies assembled and called for a boycott of trade with Britain until the taxes were withdrawn.
- This apart, groups calling themselves "Sons of Liberty" sprang up in all the colonies in 1765 and 1766.
- The Sons of Liberty acted like a political party and instilled a new political awareness among ordinary Americans.

12. What was Townshend Acts?

- The British needed money to pay its troops and other expenses in the colonies. Hence, the British Finance Minister Charles Townshend introduced new duties on imports in 1767. This is known as the Townshend Acts.
- As per the Acts, they introduced duties on imports to colonies such as glass, paper, paint, lead and tea.
- Further, the British officers were empowered to search homes and businesses for smuggled or illegal goods.

13. What was the importance of First Continental Congress meet?

- The Continental Congress was formed in the year 1774. Soon, members from other colonies joined in this Congress. On 5th Sep. 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia.
- The Congress agreed to vote by the representatives of colonies and endorsed the resolution declaring the Intolerable Act null and void.
- It called for economic sanctions against the British. The Congress adopted a Declaration of American Rights.



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14. What day is celebrated by the Americans as Independence Day? Why?

- The Americans celebrate July 4th as Independence Day.
- Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved a resolution for independence on June 7, 1776.
- After much debate, the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson was adopted by the Congress on July 4th 1776.
- This day is celebrated by the Americans as Independence Day.

15. Why were the King and Queen of France hated by the people?

- The Divine Right Theory of Kingship means the king was representative of god on Earth. Therefore, the king was accountable only to god for all his actions and not to anybody else.
- In France, Louis XVI was under the influence of his wife Marie Antoinette. She believed that she was more than the king.
- So, both the king and the queen were hated by the people of France.

16. Who were Girondins and Jacobins.

- There were many parties and groups fighting for control of power in the early days of the French Revolution.
- There were the royalists still hoping to retain Louis XVI as an absolute king. The modern liberals wanted to keep the King as a limited monarch. They were called themselves as Girondins.
- The hardcore republicans were the Jacobins.

17. Write about the new Republican Calendar of France.

- The Convention created a new Republican calendar for France.
- All references to religion found in the old calendar's name were deleted, and a 10-day week followed.
- In this secular calendar, the twelve months of the year were named after natural elements, while each day was named after a seed, tree, flower, fruit, animal, or tool, replacing the saints'-day names and Christian festivals.

18. What was the reason for the first split in the Jacobin Party?

- Danton, Herbert and Robespierre of Jacobin Party emerged as the main leaders of the National Convention.
- There was a great Festival of Liberty and Reason in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.
- Robespierre was conservative in religious matters.
- Neither Danton nor Robespierre approved this movement.
- Herbert and his supporters who had organised the festival were sent to the guillotine.
- This was the reason for the split of Jacobin Party.

**VI. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVEN UNDER EACH CAPTION.****1. Townshend Act :****a) Who introduced this Act?**

Charles Townshend, the British Finance Minister.

b) In which year was this Act passed?

In 1767.

c) Why did the colonists oppose the Act?

- The British introduced duties on Imports to colonies.
- Further, the British officers were empowered to search homes and trading centres for smuggled or illegal goods.

d) Why did the merchants of Boston oppose British goods?

The British, even after a lot of opposition, retained the tax on tea. Their intention was to encourage the business of the East India Company by taking its tea to America and sell it there.

2. Social life in France :**a) What was the tax collected by the Church in France?**

Tithes.

b) Who was Danton?

Danton was a great leader of French Revolution.

c) Who were the Encyclopaedists of eighteenth century France?

Diderot and Jean d'Alembert.

d) Who provided free labour for the construction of public roads?

The peasants & middle class.

ADDITIONAL**3. National Convention :****a) Who were the main leaders of the National Convention?**

Danton, Herbert and Robespierre.

b) Name the Law by which a large number of people tried and sentenced?

Law of Suspects.

c) How many days the Reign of Terror lasted?

46 days.

d) How did the Reign of Terror come to an end?

The Reign of Terror came to an end with the fall of Robespierre.

4. Emigres :

- a) **Who were Emigres?**
Emigres were the Nobles who supported the monarchy fled France and lived in exile.
- b) **Where did they live?**
They lived in the frontier towns bordering France.
- c) **What were they doing?**
They were preparing for counter-revolutionary moves.
- d) **Who issued the "Declaration of Pilnitz"?**
Austria and Prussia.

5. French Philosophers :

- a) **Name the famous French philosophers.**
Voltaire, Montesquieu and Rousseau.
- b) **Name the book written by Rousseau.**
Social Contract.
- c) **Who said 'Man is born free, but is everywhere in chains'?**
Rousseau.
- d) **Who wrote the 'Persian Letters'?**
Montesquieu.

VII. ANSWER IN DETAIL.**1. "Taxation without Representation" led to the outbreak of American War of Independence – Explain.**

- The Seven Year War (1756-63) between Britain and France had centred on the control of colonies especially in North America.
- Britain defeated France and took control of Canada. But the war cost the English heavily.
- The British government decided to collect some of the cost of the war from the colonists.
- Series of taxes were imposed on the colonialists. It should be noted that the Americans did not have representation in the British Parliament.
- The Sugar Act of 1764 prohibited the import of foreign rum and imposed duties on wines, silks, coffee and other luxury items. It was protested by the merchants in legislature and town meetings.
- The preamble of the Sugar Act provided the slogan 'No Taxation without representation',
- Other taxes such Currency Act, Quartering Act of 1765 and Stamp Act added fuel to the fire.
- Thus, the slogan 'Taxation without Representation' led to the out break of American War of Independence.

2. Highlight the contribution of French Philosophers to the Revolution of 1789.

The French Revolution started in the year 1789. The role of French Philosophers such as Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau in the revolution is note worthy.

i) Voltaire:

He was a prolific writer and activist. He was vehement in his criticism of the Church. His most famous work was *Candide*. His famous quote was: "those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

ii) Rousseau:

His political theory set the minds of many afire with new ideas and new resolves. His ideas played an important part in preparing the people of France for the great revolution. He said in his book *'Social Contract'*, 'Man is born free, but is everywhere in chains'.

iii) Montesquieu:

He was the author of *'The Persian Letters'* and *'The Spirit of the Laws'*. He put forward the theory of separation of powers. He said that the liberty of the individual would be best protected only in a government where the powers of its three organs such as legislature, executive and judiciary were separate.

These philosophers and thinkers, opposed to religious intolerance and political and social privileges, succeeded in provoking large numbers of ordinary people to think and act.

ADDITIONAL**3. What were the acts that activated the American War of Independence?**

The Seven Years War between Britain and France had centred on the control of colonies, especially in North America. Britain defeated France. But the war cost the English heavily. The British ministers proposed that the American colonists pay some of the cost of the war. So, a series of taxes were imposed on the colonists.

The Sugar Act :

The Sugar Act of 1764 prohibited the import of foreign rum and imposed duties on molasses, wines, silks, coffee and other luxury items. As the Act was enforced ruthlessly, it led to protests by merchants in legislatures and town meetings. The preamble of the Sugar Act provided the slogan 'No Taxation without representation'.

The Currency Act :

This Act insisted on colonies repaying the debt only in gold or silver. It was a huge burden on the colonial economy.

The Quartering Act:

It required the colonies to pay for the cost of keeping British troops in America.

The Stamp Act (1765) :

The Act required that many printed materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper produced in London, carrying an embossed revenue stamp.

2. Write the results of the American War of Independence.

The important results of the American War of Independence are-

- For the first time, a colonial power was overthrown by the colonists.
- It led to the establishment of a republican government in the United States.
- The colonists wanted to get rid of the feudal inequalities of Europe and they succeeded.

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- The Declaration of Independence of 1776 stated that “all men are born equal.” But in reality the poor Black slaves did not fit in this. America had to fight a bitter civil war in the succeeding century, to abolish slavery.
- The written constitutions protected individual rights, freedom of press and freedom of religion.
- The Continental Congress had drafted the Articles of Confederation. The Church and the State were separated.
- Thomas Jefferson introduced freedom of religion in Virginia. It was later incorporated into the American Constitution.
- The conception of people’s right to a government of their choice encouraged the Latin American revolutionaries to strive for the overthrow of the Spanish empire in South America.
- The French revolutionaries inspired by the Declaration of Independence which determined to fight against royal absolutism.

3. What were the economic causes of the French Revolution?

The French people started a protest against their ruler Louis XVI. Many causes attributed for the rise of French Revolution. Among them, the notable one was Economic condition of France.

- On the eve of the French revolution, France was going through a period of economic crisis.
- The French treasury was bankrupt because of its involvement in the Seven Years War that ended in defeat.
- French participation in the American War of Independence made the financial condition worse. The luxurious lifestyle of the royalty and nobles in Versailles court, in contrast to the grinding poverty of the common people, made the people accept the new ideologies of French philosophers of the eighteenth century.
- The Finance Ministers of the King, Turgot, Necker, Calonne and Brienne one after the other suggested reduction of royal expenditure and taxation of the first two Estates - the nobles and the clergy. Their advice was not only disregarded but they themselves were dismissed from service.
- To meet the resource crunch the government borrowed heavily resulting in a huge fiscal deficit. Nearly half the revenue went towards payment of interest for the loans. Under their circumstances, the French monarch Louis XVI was forced to convene the Estate General, the combined body of three estates comprising nobles, clergy and commoners respectively.

4. What were the impacts of French Revolution?

The French Revolution had many lasting results. Among them-

- It marked the end of the system of absolute monarchy in France.
- All feudal privileges were abolished and the power of clergy was curbed.
- The Revolution united the people of different sections and paved the way for the enhanced power of the state.
- It also led to the growth of feelings of nationalism and the emergence of an assertive middle class.



- Revolution upheld the theory of people's sovereignty and laid the foundation for the birth of liberal constitutional governments in Europe.
- Liberty, equality, and fraternity became the watchwords of freedom loving people all over the world
- It inspired many later day political movements for the establishment of liberal democracy in Europe and elsewhere.

VIII. ACTIVITY.

1. If any Government becomes bankrupt like the Government of Louis XVI, what measures do you think are required to overcome the crisis.

When an organisation is unable to honour its financial obligations or make payment to its creditors, it files for bankruptcy. The governments follow different ways and methods to overcome the financial bankruptcy. Any one of the measures of the following could be adopted by Louis XVI, the Emperor of France.

Bonds :

Governments often issue bonds to get money. This enables them to avoid raising taxes and provides money to stimulate the economy through public spending, theoretically generating additional tax income from prosperous businesses and tax payers.

It seems like a logical approach, but keep in mind that the government must pay interest to its creditors and at some point, the borrowed money must be repaid. Historically, issuing debt has provided an economic boost to various countries.

Interest Rate Manipulation :

Maintaining low-interest rates is another way governments seek to stimulate the economy, generate tax revenue and, ultimately, reduce the national debt. Low-interest rates make it easy for individuals and businesses to borrow money. In turn, the borrowers spend that money on goods and services, which creates jobs and tax revenues.

Spending Cuts :

By instituting deep budget cuts (20% or more within four years), the nation can reduce its budget deficit to zero within three or four years and cut its public debt by one-third within five years. Canada faced the same problem in the 1990s. The country did this without raising taxes.

Raise Taxes :

Tax increases are a common tactic. Despite the frequency of the practice, most nations face large and growing debts. It is likely that this is largely due to the failure to cut spending. When cash flows increase and spending continues to rise, the increased revenues make little difference to the overall debt level.

Pro Business/Pro Trade :

A pro-business, pro-trade approach is another way nations can reduce their debt burdens. Saudi Arabia reduced its debt burden from 80% of gross domestic product in 2003 to just 10.2% in 2010 by selling oil.

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HISTORY

Bailout (Help from others) :

Getting rich nations to forgive your debts or hand you cash is a strategy that has been employed more than a few times. Many nations in Africa have been the beneficiaries of debt forgiveness. Unfortunately, even this strategy has its faults. For example, in the late 1980s, Ghana's debt burden was significantly reduced by debt forgiveness.

Default :

Defaulting on the debt is included i) going bankrupt and ii) restructuring payments to creditors is a common and often successful strategy for debt reduction.

2. Attempt a comparative study of American War of Independence and Indian Independence Movement.

- The independence movement in America and India were aimed to remove the British from the soil.
- The leaders of the American War of Independence as well as Indian Independence Movement were one among the people.
- Introduction of taxes on American colonists such as Sugar Act, Currency Act and Stamp Act were the main reason for the war. In India, the introduction of Arms Act, Vernacular Press Act and Ilbert Bill were the causes for the beginning of the freedom movement.
- The Americans had a single goal and fought against the British. But, Indians also fought for their independence.
- The American used modern and sophisticated weapons against the British. In India, the leaders followed sathyagraha and ahimsa against the British government.
- Both in India and America, all the people took part in the war of independence.
- American War of Independence was a short one. But the Indians fought for more than hundred years to achieve their goal.
- At last, the American became an Independence country in 1776. India got its independence in 1947.

IX. Assignment.**1. Attempting an account of Bastille prison.**

Louis XVI, the Emperor of France summoned the Estate General in May 1789. The representatives of the third estate namely the Commons were not permitted allowed to participate in the meeting. They proclaimed themselves a National Assembly and decided not to disperse until to give them a constitution. The king tried to use his force but his own soldiers refused to obey his orders. Louis then intrigued to get foreign regiments to shoot down his own people. This incident provoked the people and they stormed the Bastille Prison on 14 July 1789. They stormed the Bastille prison and set free all the prisoners. The fall of the Bastille was the first great turning point in the revolution. 14 July is celebrated as the National Day of France to this day. The subsequent popular risings all over the country emboldened the National Assembly to act swiftly.

2. Reading the essence of Les Miserable (a historical novel by Victor Hugo).

(Self Activity)

