

# CHAPTER 1: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

## CONCEPTS

The French Society during the Late 18th Century

**The French Society Comprised:** 1st Estate: Clergy, 2nd Estate: Nobility, 3rd Estate: Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, peasants, artisans, landless labourers, servants, etc.

Some within the Third Estate were rich and some were poor.

The burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the Third Estate alone.

**The Struggle for Survival:** Population of France grew and so did the demand for grain.

The gap between the rich and poor widened. This led to subsistence crises.

**The Growing Middle Class:** This estate was educated and believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth. These ideas were put forward by philosophers such as Locke English philosopher and Rousseau French philosopher. The American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights was an important example of political theories of France. These ideas were discussed intensively in salons and coffee houses and spread among people through books and newspapers. These were even read aloud.

## THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION:

The French Revolution went through various stages. When Louis XVI became king of France in 1774, he inherited a treasury which was empty. There was growing discontent within the society of the Old Regime.

1789-Convocation of Estates General. The Third Estate formed National Assembly, the Bastille was stormed, peasant revolted in the countryside.

1791-A constitution was framed to limit the powers of the king and to guarantee basic right to all human beings.

1792-93- France became a republic. Jacobin Republic overthrown, a Directory ruled France.

1795-A new Convention appointed a five-man Directorate to run the state from 26 October, 1795.

1799-The Revolution ended with the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.

## **Time Line: The French Revolution**

1770s-1780s- Economic decline: French Government in deep debt.

1788-1789- Bad harvest, high prices, food riots

1789, May 5- Estates-General convened, demands reforms.

1789, July 14- National Assembly formed. Bastille stormed on July 14. French Revolution started.

1789, August 4- Night of August 4 ended the rights of the aristocracy.

1789, August 26- Declaration of the Rights of Man

1790- Civil Constitution of the Clergy nationalised the Church.

1792- Constitution of 1791 converted absolute monarchy into a constitutional Monarchy with limited powers.

1792- Austria and Prussia attacked revolutionary France

1793- Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed.

1792-1794- The Reign of Terror started. Austria, Britain, the Netherlands, Prussia and Spain was at war with France.

Robespierre's Committee of Public Safety repelled back foreign invaders. It executed many "enemies of the people" in France itself.

1794- Robespierre was executed. France was governed by a Directory, the committee of five men.

1799- Napoleon Bonaparte became the leader.

## **WOMEN'S REVOLUTION**

From the very beginning, women were active participants in the events which brought about so many changes in the French society. Most women of the Third Estate had to work for a living. Their wages were lower than those of men. In order to discuss and voice their interests, women started their own political clubs and newspapers. One of their main demands was that women must enjoy the same political rights as men. Some laws were introduced to improve the position of women. Their struggle still continued in several parts of the world. It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.

## **THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY**

There was a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and America. In the 18th century, there was little criticism of slavery in France. No laws were passed against it. It was in 1794 that the convention freed all slaves. But 10 years later slavery was reintroduced by Napoleon. It was finally in 1848 that slavery was abolished in the French colonies.

## **THE REVOLUTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE**

The years following 1789 in France saw many changes in the lives of men, women and children. The revolutionary governments took it upon themselves to pass laws that would translate the ideals of liberty and equality into everyday practice. One important law that came into effect was the abolition of censorship. The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These spread from France to the rest of Europe during the 19th century.

## **NAPOLEON**

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms where he placed members of his family. He saw his role as a moderniser of Europe. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.

## **THE FRENCH REVOLUTION IMPORTANT DATES AND HISTORY**

### **June 20 1789, Tennis Court Oath**

The Estates General began to weaken when its framework led to a difference of opinion within the Third Estate. The Third Estate decided to stick with representing their right and opposed Louis XVI when he did not allow each delegate to vote. The Third Estate, which was made up of mostly Bourgeoisie, were locked out of a meeting of the Estates General, so they met inside a tennis court where they establish the National Assembly and reasoned to draw up a constitution based on popular sovereignty.

### **5 July, 1789, The Great Fear**

Political crisis and rural unrest was present in France. Peasants went hungry, grain prices rapidly increased, and people went broke trying to buy bread. Rumors also sparked the "Great Fear" when rumors led to panic within villages that government troops were taking peasant crops. During hard times, peasants attacked the nobles when nobles tried to reimpose medieval dues by ransacking the castles of the nobles and destroying documents. Peasants fought against the unjust regime.

### **14 July, 1789, The Fall of Bastille**

When rumors spread about royal troops occupying Paris, many Parisians gathered outside the Bastille, a medieval fortress used as a prison to demand weapons and gun powder. Chaos broke out, killing hundreds in the crowd. The mob broke through the barriers, finding no weapons. This event became a symbol of tyranny and a symbol of the French Revolution.

## **26 August, 1789, The Declaration of Rights of Man- Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

First step toward a constitution. It was based on the structure of the American Declaration of Independence. It stated all men were, "born and remain free and equal in rights." Natural rights to, "liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression." It also declared all male citizens equal before the law. French men were allowed to hold public office with "no distinctions on their virtues and talents." Asserted freedom of religions and taxed to be levied according to pay.

## **5 October, 1789, Women March on Versailles**

A large crowd of women began to riot over the scarce quantity of bread and the rising prices of it. The women marched for twelve miles from Paris to Versailles. These women were fed up with the extravagant living of the King and Queen, when they were going hungry. The women demanded for the King to return with them to Paris. He agreed. The women were taking action during the revolution. This signifies that the king was no longer in control to make decisions. Favored the common people.

## **12 July, 1790 Civil Constitution of Clergy**

The Catholic Church was taken over by the National Assembly, in which they established a national church system with elected clergy. There were 83 bishops, one for each department. The French monarchy were in charge of making laws and regulations pertaining to the church. Many opposed.

## **21 July, 1791, The Great Escape**

King Louis XVI of France, along with his wife Marie Antoinette decided to escape their embarrassing situation in Paris. Louis agreed. He disguised himself with his family. However, their disguises were revealed. They were returned back to Paris, this time confined to the Tuileries Palace. They were seen as traitors to the revolution. Reactions within France, as well as outside of France spurred about the king. Louis received threats from abroad.

## **27 August, 1791, Declaration of Pilnitz**

In response to Louis XVI's capture the king of Prussia and the emperor of Austria (Marie Antoinette's brother), issued this. They warned that in order to protect the French monarchy, they will intervene if needed. This made French Revolutionaries make cautious actions. Subsequently, revolutionaries saw this and prepared for war.

## **20 September, 1791, The Constitution of 1791**

It abolished many "institutions which were injurious to liberty and equality of rights." It replaced the absolute monarchy in France by a limited monarchy. Also, a new legislative Assembly was in charge of making laws, collecting taxes, and deciding on affairs concerning war and peace. Male citizens that payed taxes were allowed to elect the lawmakers. Old provinces were replaced. It was important because it reflected the Enlightenment goals, ensuring equality before the law for all citizens.

### **20 September, 1792, Creation of National Convention**

The National Convention was elected as a legislative body by radicals. It held executive power in France. The Convention voted to abolish the monarchy and declare France a republic. The Jacobins controlled the convention. They wanted to dissolve old order. They took lands and titles away that belonged to the nobility.

### **21 January, 1793, Execution of Monarch**

The National Convention held Louis XVI on trial for being a traitor to France. The king was then sentenced to death by a single vote. His words before he was killed were ignored as the crowd and drums masked them. He was sent to the guillotine, where he was beheaded. This was significant because people were now making decisions and held the power.

### **5 Sep, 1793, The Reign of Terror**

Many executions took place against the enemies of the revolution. People who went against the ideas of the Revolution were instantly put in prison and killed. If any ordinary person said something counter-revolutionary, they would end up at the guillotine, a blade that beheaded people. 40,000 died during this time, sparking a terror. Nobles and clergy, middle-class citizens, and peasants were killed. Robespierre was behind the Reign of Terror. He stated terror would lead to the Republic of Virtue.

### **22 Aug, 1795, Constitution of 1795**

French constitution established during the French Revolution. This constitution was ratified by the National Convention. This constitution established the Directory. It also concentrated on governmental restructuring during this time period. "The Directory would have no legislative power, it would have the authority to appoint people to fill the other positions within the government."

### **2 Nov, 1795, The Directory**

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Directory. It also concentrated on governmental restructuring during this time period. "The Directory would have no legislative power, it would have the authority to appoint people to fill the other positions within the government."

### **20 Feb 1799, Napoleon becomes Consulate**

Napoleon had demonstrated made successes early on in his life. His military career was prevalent when he drove out British forces out of the French port of Toulon and when he won victories against Austrians. His successes made him ambitious. He became popular in France as a hero. He became a political leader, and installed a Coup d'Etat. He later overthrew a Directory and set up a Consulate. He then took up a title of First Consul for life.

### **15 July 1801, Concordat of 1801**

An agreement between Napoleon and Pope Pius VII that strengthened the Roman Catholic Church as the superior church in France. Napoleon was making peace with the Catholic church, once an enemy of the Revolution. The church was also made in favor of the state, but also recognized religious freedom for Catholics. This allowed him to win favor with Catholics, and peasantry.

### **02 December, 1804, The Coronation of an Emperor - Napoleon**

Napoleon had gained much power now to seize the title Emperor of the French. Napoleon held plebiscites to vote for in favor of his strong leadership. He promised to bring "order and stability." He invited the pope to Notre Dame cathedral in Paris for his coronation. Napoleon take the crown from the pope and places it on his head. He shows he wants to be the most powerful in Europe. He knew people supported him on his rise to power.

### **21 October, 1805, The Battle of Trafalgar**

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought off of Cape Trafalgar on the Spanish coasts. Napoleon and his French army decided to invade Britain. Admiral Nelson tried to stop him. When they all met, Nelson's Royal Navy had 27 ships while the Spanish and French had 33 vessels. The British captured and destroyed most of their vessels. This was a major victory for Britain.

### **02 December, 1805, The Battle of Austerlitz**

This is known as one of Napoleon's greatest victories. The battle took place near Austerlitz. Napoleon received threats from both Russia and Austria, so he abandoned his ambitions to invade England. Napoleon told his enemies he wanted

a truce, since, his army was weak, however, this was his plan to join with his allies. The armies of Napoleon's enemies, Russia and Austria were destroyed.

**02 May, 1808, Invasion of Spain/Peninsular War (Iberian)** France had dominated most of Europe by now. Napoleon replaced the king of Spain with his brother, Joseph Bonaparte. Napoleon decided to invade Portugal because they did not pay any attention to the Continental System. So, he moved troops through Spain in order to invade. However, many Spaniards were angered by the replacement of their former king. French forces fought against the resistance, however, Spanish guerilla warfare killed a lot of the French forces. Britain helped Spain defeat France.

**24 Jun, 1812, Invasion of Russia (Third Mistake)**

His Russian ally was not agreeing with his Continental System, so he made the decision to invade Russia, a mistake. He led many of his troops, the Grande Armee, into Russia. However, the Russians had a tactic of scorched-earth-policy that they used, in which the Russians burned everything as they moved East, leaving nothing for the French. Napoleon captured Moscow, but it was also destroyed. The weather was an element that did not help. The winter Killed thousands of his army. He was defeated.

**20 Sep, 1814, Congress of Vienna**

Diplomats sat down at the Congress of Vienna to restore Europe's stability after the Napoleonic and Revolutionary Wars. The diplomats dined at parties, however, spies were paid to seek information of what people were saying. The main goal of the decision makers was to establish a balance of power and protect the system of monarchs. This would help create peace. Balance of power took place when map of Europe were redrawn.

**20 March, 1815**

Napoleon escaped his exile on Elba with his intentions of ruling France again when Louis XVIII was renewed as king. Napoleon was successful in his triumphant advance. However, the allies re-established their troops. Opposing armies met near the town of Waterloo in Belgium. The British and the Prussians managed to defeat Napoleon. Napoleon was once again exiled, but this time to St. Helena.

**18 Jun, 1815, Battle of Waterloo**

This battle took place in Belgium near the town of Waterloo. The United Kingdom, Russia, Austria, and Prussia organized their armies to defeat a French army under the control of Napoleon, when Napoleon wanted to be emperor again. This defeat



ended Napoleon's rule as Emperor of the French and exiled him again, this time to an island called, St. Helena.

## **THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

### **1. Describe the storming of the prison Bastille in France.**

i. On the morning of 14 July 1789, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The king had commanded troops to move into the city. Rumours spread that he would soon order the army to open fire upon the citizens who rose in protest due to shortage of bread.

ii. Some 7,000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a peoples. militia. They broke into a number of government buildings in search of arms. Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition.

iii. In the armed fight that followed, the commander of the Bastille was killed and the prisoners released . though there were only seven of them. Yet the Bastille was hated by all, because it stood for the despotic power of the king. The fortress wasdemolished and its stone fragments were sold in the markets to all those who wished to keep a souvenir of its destruction.

### **2. Describe the political and economic condition of France during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.**

i. In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France. He was 20 years old and married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette.

ii. Upon his accession the new king found an empty treasury. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France. The cost of maintaining an extravagant court at Versailles was very high.

iii. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain. The war added more than a billion **livres (currency)** to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion *livres*.

iv. Lenders who gave the state credit, now began to charge 10 per cent interest on loans. So the French government was obliged to spend an increasing percentage of its budget on interest payments alone. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.

### **3. Describe the social condition of France during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. OR How was the French society organised?**

1. French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, viz. The First Estate, Second Estate and the Third Estate. The First Estate consisted of the Clergy and the Second Estate consisted of Nobility.

2. 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 exemption from paying taxes to the state. The nobles further enjoyed feudal privileges. These included feudal dues, which they extracted from the peasants.

vii. The Third Estate consisted of three categories of people. Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers etc come in the top layer. Peasants and artisans come in the middle and small peasants, landless labourers and servants come under the lowest category of people.

3. Peasants made up of 90 per cent of the population. However, only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated. About 60 per cent of the land was owned by nobles, the Church and other richer members of the third estate.

4. Peasants were obliged to render services to the lord to work in his house and fields, to serve in the army or to participate in building roads. The burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the third estate alone.

#### **4. What was the 'subsistence crisis' in France? How did it arise?**

i. The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in the demand for food grains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly.

ii. Most workers were employed as labourers in workshops whose owner fixed their wages. But wages did not keep pace with the rise in prices. So the gap between the poor and the rich widened.

iii. Things became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest. Shortage of food grains led to price rise, riots and death. It is called **subsistence crisis**, something that occurred frequently in France during the Old Regime.

#### **5. Who were the groups of people who protested rising taxes and food scarcity in France? What was the result? How did the emergence of the middle class help French society?**

i. In the past, peasants and workers had participated in revolts against increasing taxes and food scarcity. But they lacked the means and programmes to carry out full-scale measures that would bring about a change in the social and economic order.

This was left to the middle class.

ii. The middle class became prosperous and had access to education and new ideas. **The merchants** earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods.

iii. In addition to merchants and **manufacturers**, the third estate included **professionals** such as lawyers or administrative officials. All of these were educated and believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth. Rather, a person's social position must depend on his merit.

iv. These were the groups of people who protested rising taxes and food scarcity in France. These ideas of a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all, were put forward by philosophers too.

#### **6. What role did philosophers play in bringing about the French Revolution?**

i. These ideas of a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for

all, were put forward by philosophers such as John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau. In his *Two Treatises of Government*, Locke sought to disprove the doctrine of the

divine and absolute right of the monarch.

ii. Rousseau carried the idea forward, proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.

iii. In *The Spirit of the Laws*, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. This model of government was put into force in the USA, after the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Britain.

iv. The American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights influenced political thinkers in France. The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers.

v. These were frequently read aloud in groups for the benefit of those who could not read and write. The news that Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes to be able to meet the expenses of the state generated anger and protest against the system of privileges.

## **7. Examine the factors that led to the French Revolution.**

i. The war with Britain : France supported American colonies in their war with the Great Britain for their independence. This war led to an increasing debt on the French monarchy. This necessitated imposition of new taxes on the public.

ii. Privilege based on birth: French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, viz. The First Estate, Second Estate and the Third Estate. The First Estate consisted of the Clergy and the Second Estate consisted of Nobility. 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 exemption from paying taxes to the state.

iii. Subsistence Crisis: The high population led to a rapid increase in the demand for food grains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly. Wages did not keep pace with rising prices. It led to the subsistence crisis.

iv. Growing Middle Class: A new class emerged in France because of increased overseas trade. This class was wealthy not because of birth but because of its ability to utilize opportunities. People of the middle class started raising their voice for an end to privileges based on birth.

v. Role of philosophers: The ideas of a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all, were put forward by philosophers such as John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau. They spread awareness through various media. Some from the privileged classes also advocated a switch to democracy. So, finally there was revolution in France.

## **8. Examine the incidents preceding the outbreak of the French Revolution.**

i. Louis XVI, the King of France had to increase taxes for many reasons. He called a meeting of the Estates General which would pass his proposals for new taxes.

ii. Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote. But members of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote.

iii. When the king rejected this proposal, members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest. On 20 June 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 that would limit the powers of the monarch.

iv. While the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting a constitution, riot spread across the country. A severe winter had meant a bad harvest; the price of bread rose, often bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies.

v. After spending hours in long queues at the bakery, crowds of angry women stormed into the shops. At the same time, the king ordered troops to move into Paris. On 14 July, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille.

vi. In 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 crops.

Angry peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked **chateaux** (residence of lords)

vii. They looted hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues. (**Continue the next answer**)

### **9. What were the immediate results of the outbreak of the French Revolution?**

i. A large number of nobles fled from their homes, many of them migrating to neighbouring countries.

ii. 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.

iii. On the night of 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes. Members of the clergy too were forced to give up their privileges. Tithes (tax imposed by the Church) were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated. As a result, the government acquired assets worth at least 2 billion livres.

### **10. Why did the Third Estate walk out from the Estate General called by the King Louis XVI in France?**

i. Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote. This time too Louis XVI was determined to continue the same practice. But members of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where **each member would have one vote**. (This was one of the democratic principles put forward by philosophers like Rousseau in his book *The Social Contract*.)

ii. When the king rejected this proposal, members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest. The representatives of the third estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. ( **Which demand of the third estate was rejected by the King?** )

### **11. How did France Become a Constitutional Monarchy?**

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- iii. The National Assembly completed the draft of the Constitution in 1791. Its main object was to limit the powers of the monarch. These powers instead of being concentrated in the hands of one person, were now separated and assigned to different institutions, the legislature, executive and judiciary. This made France a constitutional monarchy.

### **12. Write a short note on the Constitution of 1791 in France.**

- i. The Constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. That is, citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly.
- ii. Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.
- iii. The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens. To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.
- iv. The Constitution began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as natural and inalienable rights, that is, they belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away. It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights.

### **13. Why were the women disappointed by the Constitution of 1791 in France? What laws did the revolutionary government introduce to improve the lives of women?**

- i. The Constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. That is, citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly.
- ii. Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote. The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens. Therefore women were disappointed by Constitution of 1791 in France.
- iii. In the early years, the revolutionary government introduced laws that helped improve the lives of women. Together with the creation of state schools, schooling was made compulsory for all girls. Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will. Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and registered under civil law.

iv. Divorce was made legal, and could be applied for by both women and men. Women could now train for jobs, could become artists or run small businesses. Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued.

#### **14. Why is Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen regarded as a revolutionary document?**

- i. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as natural and inalienable rights, that is, they belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away. It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights.
- ii. Now the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right. 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.
- iii. Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed. Each side sought to convince the others of its position through the medium of print. Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of people. This was one way they could grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about at length in texts which only a handful of educated people could read.
- iv. In a country where people were classified and discriminated, where laws did not protect the public, where the upper class enjoyed privileges, Rights of Man and Citizen regarded as a revolutionary document.

#### **15. How did France become a Republic?**

- i. Although Louis XVI had signed the Constitution, he entered into secret negotiations with the King of Prussia. Rulers of other neighbouring countries too were worried by the developments in France and made plans to send troops to put down the events that had been taking place there since the summer of 1789.
- ii. Before this could happen, the National Assembly voted in April 1792 to declare war against Prussia and Austria. Thousands of volunteers joined the army. They saw this as a war of the people against kings and aristocracies all over Europe.
- iii. Political clubs like the Jacobins became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action. Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre.

#### **16. Who were the Jacobins? What role did they play in making France a republic? OR Name the popular political club in France. Who was its leader? i.**

- The Jacobins were the successful Political club that became an important rallying point for people in France who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.
- ii. The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society. They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watch-makers, printers, as well as servants and daily-wage workers. Their leader was



Maximilian Robespierre. **(Continue Previous Answer from point iv)**

**17. What was the Reign of Terror in France? Or Why is the period from 1793 to 1794 referred to as 'reign of terror' in France?**

- i. The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the Reign of Terror because it was a period of severe control and punishment by Robespierre.
- ii. All those whom he saw as being enemies of the republic, ex-nobles and clergy, members of other political parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal.
- iii. If the court found them guilty they were guillotined.
- iv. The guillotine is a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person is beheaded. It was named after Dr Guillotine who invented it.

**Q. What was the guillotine? Who invented it? (See last point above) Name any two prominent persons killed by using guillotine.**

The King of France Louis XVI and the queen Marie Antoinette were guillotined.

**19. What were the measures taken by Robespierre's government in bringing equality in French society?**

- i. Robespierre's government issued laws for placing a maximum limit on wages and prices. Meat and bread were rationed. Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.
- ii. The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden; all citizens were required to eat the *pain dégalité* (equality bread), a loaf made of whole wheat.
- iii. 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).
- iv. Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices. Robespierre pursued his policies so relentlessly that even his supporters began to demand moderation. Finally, he was convicted by a court in July 1794, arrested and on the next day sent to the guillotine.
- v. One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies.

**20. Why was a Directory appointed to rule France? What was the result? Or Under what circumstances did Napoleon Bonaparte come to power in France?**

- i The fall of the Jacobin government allowed the wealthier middle classes to seize power. A new constitution was introduced which denied the vote to non-propertied sections of society. It provided for two elected legislative councils.
- ii. These councils then appointed a Directory, an executive made up of five members. This was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in a one-man executive as under the Jacobins.
- iii. However, the Directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who then sought to dismiss them. The political instability of the Directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

**21. What were the measures taken by the revolutionary government to improve the status of women in France?**

- i. In the early years, the revolutionary government introduced laws that helped improve the lives of women. Together with the creation of state schools, schooling was made compulsory for all girls. Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will. Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and registered under civil law.
- ii. Divorce was made legal, and could be applied for by both women and men. Women could now train for jobs, could become artists or run small businesses. Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued.

**22. What setback did women's movement face in France during the Reign of Terror?**

During the Reign of Terror, the new government issued laws ordering closure of women's clubs and banning their political activities. Many prominent women were arrested and a number of them executed.

**23. How and when did the women in France get right to vote?**

- i. The Constitution of 1791 reduced the women to passive citizens in France and the right to vote is denied. They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office.
- ii. In order to discuss and voice their interests women started their own political clubs and newspapers. About sixty women's clubs came up in different French cities. The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of them.
- iii. Women's movements for voting rights and equal wages continued two hundred years in many countries of the world. The fight for the vote was carried out through an international suffrage movement during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- iv. The example of the political activities of French women during the revolutionary years was kept alive as an inspiring memory. It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.

**24. What role did women play during the revolutionary years in France? i.**

From the very beginning women were active participants in the events which brought about so many important changes in French society. They hoped that their Involvement would pressurise the revolutionary government to introduce measures to improve their lives.

- ii. In order to discuss and voice their interests women started their own political clubs and newspapers. About sixty women's clubs came up in different French cities. The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of them. iii. One of their main demands was that women enjoy the same political rights as men. Women were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizens. They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office. Only then, they felt, would their interests be represented in the new government.



- iv. Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued. During the Reign of Terror, the new government issued laws ordering closure of women's clubs and banning their political activities. Many prominent women were arrested and a number of them executed.
- v. The example of the political activities of French women during the revolutionary years was kept alive as an inspiring memory. It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.

**25. Write a short note on slavery in France. OR What was the position of France on slavery in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?**

- i. The colonies in the Caribbean . Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo were important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee. But the reluctance of Europeans to go and work in distant and unfamiliar lands meant a shortage of labour on the plantations. So this was met by **a triangular slave trade** between Europe, Africa and the Americas.
- ii. The slave trade began in the seventeenth century in Europe. French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains. Branded and shackled, the slaves were packed tightly into ships for the three-month long voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. There they were sold to plantation owners.
- iii. Throughout the eighteenth century there was little criticism of slavery in France. The National Assembly did not pass any laws, fearing opposition from businessmen whose incomes depended on the slave trade.
- iv. It was finally the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions. This, however, turned out to be a short-term measure: ten years later, Napoleon reintroduced slavery.
- v. Plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave African Negroes in pursuit of their economic interests. Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.
- vi. One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies.

**26. What changes did the revolution of 1789 bring in the everyday life of the people in France?**

- i. The years following the revolution of 1789 in France saw many changes in the lives of men, women and children. The revolutionary governments took it upon themselves to pass laws that would translate the ideals of liberty and equality into everyday practice.
- ii. One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship. In the Old Regime all written material and cultural activities, books, newspapers, plays could be published or performed only after they had been approved by the censors of the king. Now the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
- iii. 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.

iv. Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed. Each side sought to convince the others of its position through the medium of print. Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of people. This was one way they could grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about at length in texts which only a handful of educated people could read.

**How did the revolutionary government translate the ideals of liberty and equality to everyday practice? (Points 3 and 4 above)**

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

Peasants and artisans of French society benefited from the revolution. Clergy, nobles and church had to relinquish power. It is obvious that those who had to forego power and privileges would have been disappointed. People from the first and the second estate must have been a disappointed lot.

**28. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.**

- i. The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These ideas spread from France to the rest of Europe during the nineteenth century, where feudal systems were abolished.
- ii. Further these ideas spread to different colonies of the European nations. The people of the colonies interpreted and moulded these ideas according to their needs. The principles of equality, liberty and fraternity helped to intensify the freedom movements in these countries.
- iii. By the mid of 20th century a major part of the world adopted democracy as the preferred mode of rule and the French Revolution can be termed as the starting point for this development.

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

The following fundamental rights, given in the Indian constitution can be traced to the French Revolution:

- \_ The right to equality
- \_ The right to freedom of speech and expression
- \_ The right to freedom from exploitation \_
- The right to constitutional remedies

**30. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.**

The major contradiction in the message of universal rights as per the French Constitution of 1791 was the total ignorance of women. All rights were given to men. Apart from that the presence of huge number of people as passive citizens, without voting rights, was like not putting into practice what you preach. In other words it can

be said that although the declaration of universal rights was a good starting point but it took decades to fulfill its real goal.

### **31. Explain the role of Napoleon as an emperor of France. What are his contributions?**

- i. In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms where he placed members of his family.
- ii. Napoleon saw his role as a moderniser of Europe. He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.
- iii. Initially, many saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people. But soon the Napoleonic armies came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.
- iv. 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.

### **Additional questions:**

1. Why was the Jacobins of France called sans-culottes? They wore clothes without knee breeches
2. When did the French women get the right to vote ? 1946
3. Who was crowned as the French emperor in 1804 ? Napoleon Bonaparte
4. By whom was the Reign of Terror introduced in France between 1793 - 94 ? Robespierre
5. At which battle was Napoleon finally defeated ? Waterloo
6. On what charge was the Emperor Louis XVI sentenced to death ? Treason
7. Why was the Bastille hated by all in France? It stood for the despotic power of the King.
8. Which event led to the French Revolution in 1789 ? Protesting against the high price of bread.
9. Who was the French ruler who married the Austrian Princess Marie Antoinette? Louis XVI
10. What does the term Old Regime refers to in France? Society and institutions of France before 1789.
11. Who collected the tax called 'tithe' from the French peasants? The Church
12. Who proposed the Social Contract Theory ? Rousseau
13. Name the theory proposed by Montesquieu. Division of power within the government.
14. Name the political body representing the three estates of pre-revolutionary France. Estates General
15. What is the significance of the following: Scepter- Symbol of Royal power-- Broken chain. The act of becoming free Bundle of Rods or fasces. Unity is strength
16. Name the national anthem of France. Who composed it? How did it get its name? *Marseillaise*- Roget de L.Isle. (March of volunteers from *Marseillaise* to Paris)
17. What was the main objective of the Constitution drafted by the National Assembly in 1791? To limit the powers of the monarch

18. What was the minimum qualification to become an elector and as a member of the National Assembly in France? Highest bracket of taxpayers
19. Which were the natural and inalienable rights granted by the Declaration of Rights in France? Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law
20. What does the red cap of Sans culottes symbolize? Liberty
21. What was the main aim of the Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women? Women enjoy equal rights with that of men.
22. What was the most revolutionary social reform of the Jacobin regime? The abolition of slavery in the French colonies.
23. Who wrote 'What is the Third Estate.?' Abbé Sieyès, originally a priest.
24. What was the convention in France? Newly elected Assembly (1792)
25. What was the greatest achievement of the National Assembly convened in France in 1789?
26. Give an estimate of Napoleon as the first Consul of France.
27. How did the teaching of Rousseau lay the foundation of democracy in France?
28. While the national assembly was busy.....at turmoil'. Justify.
29. What role did Louis play in bringing about the French Revolution?
30. List the accomplishments of the National Assembly of France from 1789 to 1791.
31. Write a short note on the fall of Napoleon.
32. The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. Justify the statement by giving its impact on the world.
33. "Social disparity was one of the major causes of French Revolution." Justify the statement by giving any five examples.

## **Very short answer type Questions [1 MARK]**

Q.1 The Third Estate comprised ...

Ans: Poor servants and small peasants, landless labourers, Peasants, artisans, Big businessmen, merchants, lawyers, etc.

Q.2. Who advocated 'each member should have one vote'?

Ans: Rousseau

Q.3. Which decisions were taken by the convention?

Ans: Declared France a Republic

Q4. How does a 'Subsistence Crisis' happen?

Ans: Subsistence Crisis' happened in France due to the following reasons:-i) Bad harvest ii) Scarcity of grains (iii) High prices of food.

Q.5. In the war against Prussia and Austria, the army sang which patriotic song?

Ans: 'Marseillaise' written by the poet Roget de Lisle

Q.6. Who wrote the pamphlet called 'What is the Third Estate'?

Ans: Abbe Sieyes

Q.7. A guillotine was ...

Ans: A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded.

Q.8. When did the French Revolution begin?

Ans: July 14, 1789

Q.9. The word *livres* stands for ...

Ans: Unit of currency in France

Q.10. What was the effect of the rise of population of France from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789?

Ans: Rapid increase in the demand for food grains.

Q.11. What was the 'Subsistence Crisis' which occurred frequently in France?

Ans: An extreme situation endangered the basic means of livelihood.

Q.12. What was the name of tax which was directly paid to the state by the Third Estate?

Ans: Taille

Q.13. What was 'Estates General'?

Ans: A political body

Q.14. Which social groups emerged in the 18th century?

Ans: Lawyers, Administrative officials, Middle class

Q.15. The term 'Old Regime' is usually used to describe ...

Ans: Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.

Q.16. In which of these countries was the model of government as advocated by Montesquieu put into effect?

Ans: USA

Q.17. 'Two Treatises on Government' book was written by .....

Ans: John Lock

Q.18. When did Louis XVI call an assembly of Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes?

Ans : 5 May, 1789

Q.19. In the meeting of the Estates General, the members of the Third Estate demanded that ...

Ans : All the three Estates should have one vote.

Q.20. On 20th June, the representatives of the Third Estate assembled in the indoor tennis court of Versailles for ...

Ans : Drafting a Constitution for France which limited the king's power.

Q.21. Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?

Ans : Mirabeau And Abbe Sieyes

Q.22. What did Louis XVI do, seeing the power of his revolting subjects?

Ans : He accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted checks on his powers.

Q.23. According to the new constitution of 1791, the National Assembly was to be  
Ans:Elected indirectly.

Q.24.Which people were entitled to vote in France?

Ans : Only men above 25 years of age and who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS [3 MARKS]**

Q.1. What was the subsistence crisis? Why did it occur in France during the Old Regime?

Ans. 1-The population of France was on the rise. It rose from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789.This led to increase in the demand for food grains.

2-The production of food grains could not keep pace with the demand and the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly.

3- The wages also did not keep pace with the rise in prices. The gap between the rich and the poor widened. This led to the subsistence crisis.

Q.2.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 had been conducted from the past.

1. According to the principle, 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 each member would have one vote.

3. This was according to the democratic principles put forward by philosophers like Rousseau in his book, '*The Social Contract*'.

Q.3. Describe the incidents that led to the storming of the Bastille.

Ans. 1- National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting a constitution; the rest of France was seething with turmoil.

2- A severe winter had meant a bad harvest, the price of bread rose. Often bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies.

3- After spending hours in long queues at the bakery, crowds of angry women stormed into the shops.

4- At the same time, the king ordered troops to move into Paris. On 14 July, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed Bastille.

Q.4. Describe how the new political system of constitutional monarchy worked in France.

Ans. The constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. That is,

1. Citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly. Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote.

2. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.

3. The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens.

4. To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.

Q.5. What was 'natural and inalienable rights'?

Ans 1-. The constitution began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens.

2- Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law were established as 'natural and inalienable rights', i.e., they belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away.

3- It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural right.

Q.6 Why did slavery begin and why was it abolished in French colonies?

Ans 1-. The slave trade began in the 17th century. The colonies in the Caribbean – Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo – were important suppliers of commodities.

2- But the reluctance of Europeans to go and work in distant and unfamiliar lands meant a shortage of labour on the plantations.

3- Throughout the eighteenth century, there was little criticism of slavery in France. The National Assembly did not pass any laws, fearing opposition from businessmen whose incomes depended on the slave trade.

4- It was the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions. This, however, turned out to be a short-term measure. Napoleon reintroduced slavery.

5- Slavery was finally abolished in French Colonies in 1848.

Q.7. What is a revolution? In what way did the French Revolution mean different things to different people?

Ans: It is an attempt by a large number of people to change the government of a country, especially by violent action.



1. The Third Estate comprising the common men benefitted from the Revolution. The clergy and nobility had to relinquish power.
2. Their land was confiscated. Their privileges were finished. The people of lower middle class were also benefitted.
3. Position of artisans and workers improved.
4. Clergy, feudal lords, nobles and even women were disappointed. The revolution did not bring real equality as everyone was not given the right to vote. Finally, women got it in 1946.

Q.8. Who were the people comprised as a Third Estate? Who paid the taxes and to whom?

Ans1-The people who comprised the Third Estate were big businessmen, merchants, lawyers, peasants, artisans, small peasants, landless labour and servants.

2- These were 95 percent of the population. They had to pay taxes to the state. Taxes included taille, tithes and a number of indirect taxes.

Q.9 Who formed the National Assembly? On which date is 'Bastille Day' celebrated and why?

Ans.1-The representatives of the Third Estate assembled at Versailles on 20 June and declared themselves a National Assembly.

2-The Bastille Day is celebrated on 14th July every year because on this day the unruly Paris mob stormed and attacked the prison of Bastille which was considered a symbol of terror and despotism.

Q.10 Name three famous writers and philosophers who influenced the French-Revolution. What were their ideas?

Ans.1. Jean Jacques Rousseau – a French Swiss philosopher. His main idea was – man is naturally good and that society of civilisation makes man anxious and unhappy.

Mirabeau – he brought about a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds at Versailles.

Voltaire – A famous French writer. He exposed the evils prevailing in the Church and administration. The numbers of the first two estates were the (i) Clergy and (ii) Nobility respectively.

## **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS ( 5 MARKS ):**

Q.1. Explain the importance of the following events on the course of the French Revolution:

(a) Storming of the Bastille

(b) The passing of the Civil Constitution of the clergy

Ans. (a) On July 14, 1789, a mob of Paris stormed the fortress – the prison of Bastille – considered a symbol of oppression and despotism. The Swiss guards were killed and prisoners set free. The mob stole arms and ammunition. To this day, France celebrates ‘Bastille Day’ on 14<sup>th</sup> July every year.

(b) In 1790, the Civil Constitution nationalised the Church. The clergy or group of persons who enjoyed special powers in the Church were also forced to relinquish power. Tithes were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated.

Q.2. Describe the ‘Reign of Terror’ and role played by Robespierre in it.

Ans.1. The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the ‘Reign of Terror’.

2. Maximilian Robespierre, leader of the Jacobins, followed the policy of severe control and punishment.

3. All those who saw as enemies of the Republic — ex-nobles, clergy, political opponents — were arrested, tried and guillotined if found guilty.

4. He issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.

5. Meat and bread were rationed.

6. Use of expensive white flour was forbidden.

Robespierre followed his policies so relentlessly that even his supporters began to demand moderation. Finally, he was convicted, arrested and guillotined in July 1794.

Q.3 What did the following symbols convey in the Declaration of Rights?

(i) The broken chain (ii) The bundle of rods or fasces (iii) Sceptre (iv) Snake biting its tail to form a ring (v) Red Phrygian cap (vi) The law tablet

Ans. (i) The broken chains: Chains were used to fetter slaves. A broken chain stands for the act of becoming free.

(ii) The bundle of rods or fasces: One rod can be easily broken, but not an entire bundle. Strength lies in unity.

(iii) Sceptre: Symbol of royal power.

- (iv) Snake biting its tail to form a ring: Symbol of eternity. A ring has neither beginning nor end.
- (v) Red Phrygian cap: Cap worn by a slave upon becoming free.
- (vi) The law tablet: The law is the same for all, and all are equal before it.

Q.4. Write a short note on Jacobins?

Ans1- They got their name from the former convent of St. Jacob in Paris.

2-They belonged to the less prosperous sections of the society.

3-They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watch-makers, printers, as well as servants and daily wage earners.

4-Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre.

5-A large group among the Jacobin decided to wear long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers.

6-This was to set themselves apart from the fashionable sections of society especially the nobles who wore knee breeches.

Q.5. Discuss the participation of women in political clubs, their activities and demands.

Ans. From the very beginning, women were active participants in the events which brought about so many important changes in French society.

1. They hoped that their involvement would pressurise the revolutionary government to introduce measures to improve their lives.

2. Most women of the third estate had to work for a living. They worked as seamstresses or laundresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables at the market, or were employed as domestic servants in the houses of prosperous people.

3. Most women did not have access to education or job training. Their wages were lower than those of men.

4. One of their main demands was that women should be given the same political rights as men.

5. Women were disappointed that the constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizens.

Q.7. Describe the causes for the fall of Jacobin government in France.

Ans. (i) The Jacobin government in France was based on extreme measures. The period from 1793-1794 is referred to as the reign of terror. Robespierre followed a policy of severe Control and punishment.

(ii) All those he saw as being 'enemies' of the republic nobles and clergy, members of other political parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with

his methods—were arrested, imprisoned and guillotined. This led to chaos and resentment among the people.

(iii) Robespierre's government ordered shutting down of churches and converting church buildings into barricades or offices. Thus the clergy turned against the Jacobin regime and hastened its fall.

Robespierre pursued his policies so relentlessly that even his supporters turned against him. They began to demand moderation and a middle path. Finally, he himself was tried by a court in July 1794, arrested and guillotined.

## **HOTS**

Q.1 What landmark decisions were taken by the National Assembly led by the Third Estate on 4th August, 1789

Ans. 1- Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would be checked by a constitution.

2- On 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes. Members of the clergy too were forced to give up their privileges.

3- Tithes were abolished and lands owned by the church were confiscated. As a result, the government acquired assets worth at least 2, billion lives.

Q.2. Describe the importance of Declaration of the Right of Man in France.

Ans 1-The Declaration of the Right of Man in France was a landmark decision in the history of France.

2- The constitution began with a declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as 'natural and inalienable' rights. That is, they belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away.

3- It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights. The declaration of the Right of Man and Citizens influenced revolutionary movements elsewhere too.

Q.3. Discuss the participation of women in political clubs, their activities and demands. Ans. 1-Women played important role regarding various activities. In order to discuss and voice their interests women started their own political clubs and newspapers. About sixty women's clubs came up in different French cities.

2.The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of them, their main demands were that women should be given the same political

rights as men. They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office.

3- In the early years, the revolutionary government did introduce laws that helped improve the lives of women. Together with the creation of state schools, schooling was made compulsory for all girls. Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will. Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and registered under civil law. Divorce was made legal, and could be applied for by both women and men. Women could now train for jobs, could become artists or run small businesses.

4- Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued. During the Reign of Terror, the new government issued laws ordering closure of women's clubs, and banning their political activities. Women's movements for voting rights and equal wages continued through the next two hundred years in many countries of the world. It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.

## **VALUE BASED QUESTIONS:**

Q.1. Which single event turned the revolution into a Reign of Terror? Describe the role of Robespierre in it.

Q.2. Describe the role of the Bourbon kings in the French Revolution.

Q.3. How was French Society organised? What privileges did certain sections of society enjoy?

# THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Q 1– Who said: The task of representing the people has been given to the rich?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Jean-Paul Marat
- (c) Rousseau
- (d) Georges Denton

**Ans– (b) Jean-Paul Marat**

Q 2– What was the name of tax which was directly paid to the state by the Third Estate?

- (a) tithes
- (b) livres
- (c) taille
- (d) all of these

**Ans– (c) taille**

Q 3– The National Assembly framed a Constitution in 1791 to limit the powers of the

- (a) monarch
- (b) wealthy man
- (c) businessmen
- (d) press

**Ans– (a) monarch**

Q 4– Who wrote an influential pamphlet 'What is the third Estate'?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Abbe Sieyes
- (c) Jean-Paul Marat
- (d) Olympe de Gouges.

**Ans– (b) Abbe Sieyes**

Q 5– The burden of financial activities of state during the Old Regime was borne by the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Third estate**

Q 6– In France, the eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of a social group, termed as the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Middle class**

Q 7– The American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights was an important example for political thinkers in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– France**

Q 8– The agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– 14th July, 1789**

Q 9– The constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– National Assembly**

Q 10– What was the newly elected assembly called?

**Ans– The newly elected assembly was called the convention.**

Q 11– The constitution began with a Declaration of the rights of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans– Man and citizen**

Q 12– The National Assembly of France voted in April 1792 to declare war against \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Prussia and Austria**

Q 13– The members of the Jacobin Club belonged mainly to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– The less prosperous sections of society.**

Q 14 – Which group of people did not join the Jacobin club?

- (a) Artisans
- (b) Shopkeepers
- (c) Daily-wage workers
- (d) Men with property

**Ans– (d) Men with property**

Q 15– On 20th June, the representatives of the Third Estate assembled in the indoor tennis court of Versailles for

- (a) hunger strike
- (b) drafting a Constitution for France which limited the king's power
- (c) declaring a revolt
- (d) making an appeal to support the king in times of need

**Ans– (b) drafting a Constitution for France which limited the king's power**

Q 16– Which of the following is true is about Bastille Storming?

A. It was a fortress prison in France

B. It represented despotic powers



C. French common man hated Bastille

D. All the above

**Ans– D. All the above**

Q 17– In the war against Prussia and Austria, the army sang which patriotic song?

- (a) 'Liberty', written by an unknown woman poet
- (b) 'Marseillaise' written by the poet Roget de L'Isle
- (c) 'Viva France' written by a French peasant
- (d) None of the above

**Ans– (b) 'Marseillaise' written by the poet Roget de L'Isle**

Q 18– Which of these people were entitled to vote?

- (a) Only men above 25 years of age
- (b) Men and women above 30 years of age
- (c) Men who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

**Ans– (d) Both (a) and (c)**

Q 19– The new Constitution made France a

- (a) Constitutional Monarchy
- (b) Communist state
- (c) Fully democratic state
- (d) None of the above

**Ans– (a) Constitutional Monarchy**

Q 20– Which of these books was written by John Locke?

- (a) The Spirit of the Laws
- (b) Two Treatises on Government
- (c) The Social Contract
- (d) All the above

**Ans– (b) Two Treatises on Government**

Q 21– French women demanded the right:

- (a) to vote
- (b) to be elected to the assembly
- (c) to hold political office
- (d) all of the above

**Ans– (d) all of the above**

Q 22– The Assembly elected in 1792 was called

- (a) Convention
- (b) Congress
- (c) Congregation

(d) Council

**Ans– (a) Convention**

Q 23– One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in 1789 was the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Abolition of censorship.**

Q 24– In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself as Emperor of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– France.**

Q 25– A triangular slave trade took place between Europe, the Americas and:

(a) Africa

(b) Asia

(c) Australia

(d) none of the above

**Ans– (a) Africa**

Q 26– The political body representing the three estates of pre-revolutionary France as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Estates General.**

Q 27– On what charge was Louis XVI sentenced to death?

(a) Cruelty

(b) Treason

(c) Incapability

(d) Misuse of powers

**Ans– (b) Treason**

Q 28– Why is the period from 1793 to 1794 referred to as the 'Reign of Terror'?

(a) Louis XVI's successor became a tyrant

(b) Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment

(c) Jacobins opted for loot and plunder

(d) None of the above

**Ans– (b) Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment**

Q 29– A triangular slave trade started among \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– Europe, Africa and the Americas.**

Q 30– Women in France won the right to vote in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans– 1946.**

Q 31– Upon becoming free, the slave wore:

(a) blue cap

(b) white cap

- (c) red cap
- (d) green cap

**Ans– (c) red cap**

**Q 32– Who among the following reintroduced slavery in France after it was abolished by Jacobin regime?**

- (a) Louis XIV
- (b) Robespierre
- (c) Napoleon
- (d) Marat

**Ans– (c) Napoleon**

**Q 33– Who were not considered ‘passive citizens’?**

- (a) Women
- (b) children
- (c) Non-propertied men
- (d) wealthy people

**Ans– (d) wealthy people**

**Q 34– The Third Estate comprised**

- (a) Poor servants and small peasants, landless labourers
- (b) Peasants and artisan
- (c) Big businessmen, merchants, lawyers etc.
- (d) All the above

**Ans– (d) All the above**

**Q 35– In which of the battle was Napoleon finally defeated?**

- (a) Russia
- (b) Waterloo

- (c) Versailles
- (d) Paris

**Ans– (b) Waterloo**

**Q 36– ‘The Spirit of Laws’ was written by:**

- (a) Montesquieu
- (b) Rousseau
- (c) Jean Paul Marat
- (d) John Locke

**Ans– (a) Montesquieu**

**Q 37– How does a ‘Subsistence Crisis’ happen?**

- (a) Bad harvest leads to scarcity of grains
- (b) Food prices rise and the poorest cannot buy bread
- (c) Leads to weaker bodies, diseases, deaths and even food riots
- (d) All the above

**Ans– (d) All the above**

**Q 38– Which of the following decisions was taken by the convention**

- (a) Declared France a constitutional monarchy
- (b) Abolished the monarchy
- (c) All men and women above 21 years got the right to vote
- (d) Declared France a Republic

**Ans– (d) Declared France a Republic**

**Q 39– Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the ..... part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition?**

- (a) Eastern
- (b) Northern
- (c) Western
- (d) Southern

**Ans– (a) Eastern**

**Q 40– Which of the following statements is untrue about the Third Estate**

- (a) The Third Estate was made of the poor only
- (b) Within the Third Estate some were rich and some were poor
- (c) Richer members of the Third Estate owned lands
- (d) Peasants were obliged to serve in the army, or build roads

**Ans– (a) The Third Estate was made of the poor only**

**Q 41– Why was the fortress-prison, the Bastille, hated by all?**

- (a) It stood for the despotic power of the king.
- (b) Because of dictatorship
- (c) Aristocracy
- (d) None of these

**Ans– A. It stood for the despotic power of the king.**

**Q 42– The word livres stands for:**

- (a) unit of currency in France
- (b) tax levied by the Church
- (c) tax to be paid directly to the state
- (d) none of these

**Ans– (a) unit of currency in France**

Q 43– A guillotine was \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded
- (b) A fine sword with which heads were cut off
- (c) A special noose to hang people
- (d) none of the above

**Ans– (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded**

Q 44– Which of the following decisions was taken by the convention?

- (a) Declared France a constitutional monarchy
- (b) Abolished the monarchy
- (c) All men and women above 21 years got the right to vote
- (d) Declared France a Republic

**Ans– d) Declared France a Republic**

Q 45– The word livres stands for:

- (a) unit of currency in France
- (b) tax levied by the Church
- (c) Tax to be paid directly to the state
- (d) none of these

**Ans– (a) unit of currency in France**

Q 46– What was ‘Estates General’?

- (a) Post of Army General
- (b) A political body
- (c) Head of all landed property
- (d) Advisor of the king

**Ans– (b) A political body**

Q 47– The term ‘Old Regime’ is usually used to describe

- (a) France before 1000 B.C.
- (b) Society of France after 1789 A.D.
- (c) Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.
- (d) None of the above

**Ans– (c) Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.**

Q 48– Which of these books was written by John Locke?

- (a) The Spirit of the Laws
- (b) Two Treatises on Government
- (c) The Social Contract
- (d) All the above

**Ans– (b) Two Treatises on Government**

Q 49– Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Abbe Sieyes

- (c) Louis XVI
- (d) Both a and b

**Ans– (d) Both a and b**

**Q 50– Which of these provisions were passed by the Assembly on the night of 4 August 1789?**

- (a) Abolition of the feudal system of obligations
- (b) Clergy had to give up its privileges
- (c) Tithes were abolished
- (d) All the above

**Ans– (d) All the above**

**Q 51– According to the new constitution of 1791, the National Assembly was to be**

- (a) Elected directly
- (b) appointed by the king
- (c) elected indirectly
- (d) a hereditary body

**Ans– (c) elected indirectly**

**Q 52 – That ‘each member should have one vote’ was advocated by :**

- (a) Georges Danton
- (b) Rousseau
- (c) Jean-Paul Marat
- (d) The Jacobins

**Ans– (b) Rousseau**

**1. Castle or a stately residence belonging to a nobleman was called:**

- (A) Chateaux
- (B) Manor
- (C) Jadidists
- (D) Kulaks

**Answer**

**Ans. (A)**

---

**2. When did the National Assembly pass a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes in France?**

- (A) In 1784
- (B) In 1789
- (C) In 1781
- (D) In 1785

**Answer**

**Ans. (B)**

---

3. When Louis XVI became king of France?

- (A) 1774
- (B) 1789
- (C) 1753
- (D) 1719

**Answer**

Ans. (A)

---

4. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy :

- (A) Britain
- (B) Russia
- (C) Austria
- (D) None of these

**Answer**

Ans. (A)

---

5. Who is the author of following comment?

“Yet laws will last only as long as the people agree to obey them. And when they have managed to cast off the yoke of the aristocrats, they will do the same to the other owners of wealth.”

- (A) Marat
- (B) Mira Beau
- (C) AbbÈ Sieyes
- (D) Bailly

**Answer**

Ans. (A)

---

6. An Englishman, Arthur Young, travelled through France during the years from 1787 to 1789 and wrote detailed descriptions of his journeys. He often commented on what he saw.

“He who decides to be served and waited upon by slaves, ill-treated slaves at that, must be fully aware that by doing so he is placing his property and his life in a situation which is very different from that he would be in, had he chosen the services of free and well – treated men. And he who chooses to dine to the accompaniment of his victims groans, should not complain if during a riot his daughter gets kidnapped or his son’s throat is slit.”

In the above statement: Who is Young criticizing and what danger is he referring to?

- (A) The peasants and danger of Food Crisis.
- (B) The Feudal class and the danger of revolution.



- (C) The Business Class and the danger is loss of free trade
- (D) All of them.

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

7. "In France of the Old Regime the monarch did not have the power to impose taxes according to his will alone. Rather he had to call a meeting of the Estates General which would then pass his proposals for new taxes. However, the monarch alone could decide when to call a meeting of this body. The last time it was done was in 1614."

Inference drawn from the above statement is that:

- (A) Taxes were not raised between 1614 and 1789
- (B) French monarch was very powerful
- (C) Monarch was in need of more money due to financial crisis
- (D) All of the above

**Answer**

Ans. (D)

---

8. Which of the following was not a cause of the French Revolution?

- (A) Attack on France by Germanic tribes of north
- (B) A major economic crisis that bankrupted the monarchy and deprived it of its authority
- (C) Substantial amount of satirical literature directed at the royal family and the court thus lowering the prestige of the government and weakening its authority
- (D) the publication of thousands of pamphlets advocating reform, fostering a critical attitude towards the French government the sudden invasion of France by hostile Germanic tribes

**Answer**

---

9. According to the various parlements of France, what was the only body that could levy taxes?

- (A) The Crown
- (B) The Clergy
- (C) The Estates General
- (D) The Nobility

**Answer**

Ans. (C)

---

10. The 1789 oath taken by the representatives of the Third Estate to not disband until a French constitution was created occurred where?

- (A) In the ancient coliseum of Paris
- (B) On a tennis court
- (C) At the Vatican
- (D) In the Bastille

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

11. What was the political body formed by the people of Paris that stormed the Bastille in June 1789?

- (A) The National Guard
- (B) The French Guard
- (C) The House of Commons
- (D) The Estates General

**Answer**

Ans. (A)

---

12. Which of the following was not a change enacted by the National Assembly between August

- (A) The elimination of noble and clerical privilege
- (B) A complete reorganization of the Church
- (C) The execution of King Louis XVI
- (D) Creation of an elected Legislative Assembly to replace the National Assembly

**Answer**

13. The controlling body of the Reign of Terror in 1793-1794 was called

- (A) The National Guard.
- (B) The Committee of Public Safety.
- (C) The Jacobins.
- (D) The Estates General.

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

14. Which of the following was not a feature of the French Constitution of 1795?

- (A) It created a franchise limited to male property holders.
- (B) It created the Council of Public Safety
- (C) It created the Council of the Ancients.
- (D) It created a five-man Directorate to hold executive power.

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

15. The Estates General in France was created during:

- (A) 1785
- (B) 1745
- (C) 1689
- (D) None of the above

**Answer**

Ans. (D)

---

16. The changes brought about in French society due to revolution did not include:

- (A) Change in dress rules
- (B) Lifting of press censorship
- (C) Legalising of divorce
- (D) Permanent abolition of slavery and slave trade

**Answer**

Ans. (D)

---

17. In 1793, the Jacobin politician Chaumette sought to justify the closure of women's clubs on the following grounds:

“Has Nature entrusted domestic duties to men? Has she given us breasts to nurture babies? Shameless are those women, who wish to become men. Have not duties been fairly distributed?”

In the light of above statement the status of women during French Revolution could be analysed as:

- (A) Women were given equal rights after revolution.
- (B) Women were treated as inferiors even after the revolution.
- (C) Women were allowed to form clubs and participate in politics after revolution.
- (D) None of the above is true.

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

18. “The law should be the expression of the general will; all female and male citizens should have a say either personally or by their representatives in its formulation; it should be the same for all. All female and male citizens are equally entitled to all honours and public employment according to their abilities and without any other distinction than that of their talents.”

The above statement was declared by:

- (A) Robespierre

- (B) Marat
- (C) Napoleon
- (D) Olympe de Gouges

**Answer**

Ans. (D)

---

19. Who said these words and when:

“To establish and consolidate democracy, to achieve the peaceful rule of constitutional laws, we must first finish the war of liberty against tyranny. We must annihilate the enemies of the republic at home and abroad, or else we shall perish. In time of Revolution a democratic government may rely on terror. Terror is nothing but justice, swift, severe and inflexible;”

- (A) Abbe Sieyes during Tennis Court Oath.
- (B) Marat during Directory period
- (C) Robespierre on 7 February 1794, at the Convention.
- (D) Napoleon during Battle of Waterloo.

**Answer**

Ans. (C)

---

20. 1791 constitution had denied political rights to poor men; Jacobins gave equal rights to all men irrespective of their economic or social status; Directory again established rule of wealthier middle class. Despite of all the differences there was one thing common in all these constitutions of Revolutionary France. What was that?

- (A) Denial of political rights to Black Slaves.
- (B) Denial of Political Rights to Women.
- (C) All elected only former feudal lords to highest positions
- (D) They did not have anything in common.

**Answer**

Ans. (B)

---

Question 1.

Who said: The task of representing the people has been given to the rich?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Jean-Paul Marat
- (c) Rousseau
- (d) Georges Denton

Answer: (b) Jean-Paul Marat

---

Question 2.

The National Assembly framed a Constitution in 1791 to limit the powers of the

- (a) monarch
- (b) wealthy man
- (c) businessmen
- (d) press

Answer: (a) monarch

---

Question 3.

Who wrote an influential pamphlet 'What is the third Estate'?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Abbe Sieyes
- (c) Jean-Paul Marat
- (d) Olympe de Gouges.

Answer: (b) Abbe Sieyes

---

Question 4.

Which group of people did not join the Jacobin club?

- (a) Artisans
- (b) Shopkeepers
- (c) Daily-wage workers
- (d) Men with property

Answer: (d) Men with property

---

Question 5.

French women demanded the right:

- (a) to vote
- (b) to be elected to the assembly
- (c) to hold political office
- (d) all of the above

Answer: (d) all of the above

---

Question 6.

A triangular slave trade took place between Europe, the Americas and:

- (a) Africa
- (b) Asia
- (c) Australia
- (d) none of the above

Answer: (a) Africa

---

Question 7.

Upon becoming free, the slave wore:

- (a) blue cap
- (b) white cap
- (c) red cap
- (d) green cap

Answer: (c) red cap

---

Question 8.

Who were not considered 'passive citizens'?

- (a) Women
- (b) children
- (c) Non-propertyied men
- (d) wealthy people

Answer: (d) wealthy people

---

Question 9.

The Third Estate comprised

- (a) Poor servants and small peasants, landless labourers
- (b) Peasants and artisan
- (c) Big businessmen, merchants, lawyers etc.
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

---

Question 10.

Which of the following decisions was taken by the convention

- (a) Declared France a constitutional monarchy
- (b) Abolished the monarchy
- (c) All men and women above 21 years got the right to vote
- (d) Declared France a Republic

Answer: (d) Declared France a Republic

---

Question 11.

How does a 'Subsistence Crisis' happen?

- (a) Bad harvest leads to scarcity of grains
- (b) Food prices rise and the poorest cannot buy bread
- (c) Leads to weaker bodies, diseases, deaths and even food riots
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

---

Question 12.

Which of the following statements is untrue about the Third Estate

- (a) The Third Estate was made of the poor only
- (b) Within the Third Estate some were rich and some were poor
- (c) Richer members of the Third Estate owned lands
- (d) Peasants were obliged to serve in the army, or build roads

Answer: (a) The Third Estate was made of the poor only

---

Question 13.

A guillotine was \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded
- (b) A fine sword with which heads were cut off
- (c) A special noose to hang people
- (d) none of the above

Answer: (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded

---

Question 14.

The word livres stands for:

- (a) unit of currency in France
- (b) tax levied by the Church
- (c) Tax to be paid directly to the state
- (d) none of these

Answer: (a) unit of currency in France

---

Question 15.

What was the 'Subsistence Crisis' which occurred frequently in France?

- (a) An extreme situation endangering the basic means of livelihood
- (b) Subsidy in food grains
- (c) Large-scale production of food grains
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) An extreme situation endangering the basic means of livelihood

---

Question 16.

What was 'Estates General'?

- (a) Post of Army General
- (b) A political body
- (c) Head of all landed property
- (d) Advisor of the king

Answer: (b) A political body

---

Question 17.

The term 'Old Regime' is usually used to describe

- (a) France before 1000 B.C.
- (b) Society of France after 1789 A.D.
- (c) Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.

---

Question 18.

Which of these books was written by John Locke?

- (a) The Spirit of the Laws
- (b) Two Treatises on Government
- (c) The Social Contract
- (d) All the above

Answer: (b) Two Treatises on Government

---

Question 19.

In the meeting of the Estates General, the members of the Third Estate demanded that

- (a) All the three Estates should have one vote altogether
- (b) Each Estate should have one vote
- (c) Each member of the three Estates should have one vote
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Each member of the three Estates should have one vote

---

Question 20.

Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?

- (a) Mirabeau
- (b) Abbe Sieyes
- (c) Louis XVI
- (d) Both a and b

Answer: (d) Both a and b

---

Question 21.

Which of these provisions were passed by the Assembly on the night of 4 August, 1789?

- (a) Abolition of feudal system of obligations
- (b) Clergy had to give up its privileges



- (c) Tithes were abolished
  - (d) All the above
- Answer: (d) All the above
- 

Question 22.

According to the new constitution of 1791, the National Assembly was to be

- (a) Elected directly
- (b) appointed by the king
- (c) elected indirectly
- (d) a hereditary body

Answer: (c) elected indirectly

---

Question 23.

Which of these rights were not established as ‘natural and inalienable’ rights by the constitution of 1791?

- (a) Right to life
- (b) Freedom of speech and opinion
- (c) Equality before the law
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d) All the above

---

## **B**

Q1. On ..... the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The king had commanded troops to move into the city.

- A. 15 July 1779
- B. 14 July 1779
- C. 15 July 1789
- D. 14 July 1789

Q2. Some 7,000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a .....?

- A. Peoples party
- B. Peoples’ militia
- C. Peoples democracy
- D. Peoples presence

Q3. Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the ..... part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition?

- A. Eastern
- B. Northern
- C. Western
- D. Southern

Q4. Why was the fortress-prison, the Bastille, hated by all?

- A. It stood for the despotic power of the king.
- B. Because of dictatorship
- C. Aristocracy
- D. None of these

Q5. What was the main protest by the people?

- A. Price of bread
- B. Behavior of the king
- C. Poverty of the people
- D. High taxes

Q6. Who said “ the task of representing the people has to be given to the rich”?

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Jean Paul Marat
- C. Rousseau
- D. Georges Denton

Q7. The National Assembly formed a constitution in 1791, to limit the power of the .....?

- A. Wealthy men
- B. Businessmen
- C. Monarch
- D. Press

Q8. Who wrote the influential pamphlet- ‘What is the Third Estate’?

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Jean Paul Marat
- C. Abbe Sieyes
- D. Georges Denton

Q9. Which group of people did not join the Jacobin Club?

- A. Artisans
- B. Shopkeepers

C. Daily wage workers

D. Men with property

Q10. French women demanded the right to.....?

A. Vote

B. To be elected in the assembly

C. To hold political office

D. All

Q11. A triangular slave trade took place between Europe, the Americas and.....?

A. Asia

B. Australia

C. Africa

D. None

Q12. What did the slaves wear after becoming free?

A. Blue cap

B. Red cap

C. White cap

D. Green cap

Q13. Who were not considered passive citizens?

A. Women

B. Children

C. Non property men

D. Wealthy people

Q14. The third estate comprised.....?

A. Poor and small peasants

B. Land less labour

C. Peasants and artisans

D. All

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A. It declared France a constitutional Monarchy

B. Abolished the Monarchy

C. All men and women above 21 got the right to vote

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A. Bad harvest leads of scarcity of grains

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Q17. Which of the following statements is false about the Third Estate?

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- B. Some were rich some were poor
- C. Rich members owned land
- D. Peasant were obliged to serve in the army

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- B. Tax levied by the state
- C. Tax levied by the Church
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- A. Post of army general
- B. A political body
- C. Head of all landed property
- D. Advisor of the king

Q21. The term old regime is used to describe.....?

- A. France before 1000 BC
- B. Society of France after 1789
- C. Society of France before 1789
- D. None

Q22. Which of these books was written by John Locke?

- A. The spirit of the laws
- B. Two treatises on Government
- C. The social contract
- D. All

Q23. In the meeting of the Estates General, the members of the Third Estate demanded that.....

- A. All the estates have one vote together
- B. Each estate should have one vote
- C. Each member of all three estates should have one vote each
- D. None

Q24. Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Abbe Sieyes
- C. Louis XVI
- D. A & B

Q25. Which of these provisions were passed by the Assembly on night of 4th August 1789?

- A. Abolition of feudal system
- B. Clergy had to give up its privileges
- C. Tithes was abolished
- D. All

Q26. According to the new constitution 1791, the National Assembly was to be ..... ?

- A. Elected directly
- B. Appointed by the king
- C. Elected indirectly
- D. A hereditary body

Q27. Which of the following is true is about Bastille Storming?

- A. It was a fortress prison in France
- B. It represented despotic powers
- C. French common man hated Bastille
- D. All

Q28. When did the fall of Bastille take place?

- A. 14 July 1789
- B. 20 June 1789
- C. 4 August 1789
- D. 5 May 1789

Q29. Which estates in France were exempted from paying taxes?

- A. The first Estate
- B. The second Estate
- C. First and Second estate both
- D. The Third estate

Q30. What was Tithes?

- A. A tax levied by the Church
- B. Tax by the state
- C. Tax by the Monarch
- D. None

Q.31. Which unit of currency was discontinued in the year 1794?

- (a) Dollar
- (b) Livre
- (c) Rupee
- (d) Taille

Q.32. What was the tax to be paid directly to the state by all the members of the Third Estate Known as?

- (a) tithes
- (b) taille
- (c) feudal dues
- (d) manorial dues

Q.33. Who was the king of France during the French Revolution?

- (a) Louis XVIII
- (b) Louis XVII
- (c) Louis XVI
- (d) Louis XV

Q.34. An Englishman who travelled through France during the years 1787-1789 and wrote the descriptions of his journeys was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) George Danton
- (b) Arthur Young
- (c) Montesquieu
- (d) Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Q.35. Which was the political body where the three estates used to send their representatives?

- (a) Estates General
- (b) Assembly
- (c) First Estate
- (d) Chateau

Q.36. What was an estate consisting of the lord's lands and his mansion known as?

- (a) chateau
- (b) manor
- (c) bastille
- (d) castle

Q.37. When did the National Assembly of France complete the drafting of the Constitution?

- (a) 1792
- (b) 1789
- (c) 1774
- (d) 1791

Q.38. For a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers to qualify as an \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) clergy
- (b) taille
- (c) elector
- (d) tithes

Q.39. Which symbol expressed the personification of law in France?

- (a) winged women
- (b) sceptre
- (c) eye within a triangle
- (d) law table

Q.40. The National Anthem of France which was sung for the first time by volunteers as they marched into Paris was \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Marseillaise
- (b) Versailles
- (c) Bastille
- (d) Chateaux

Q.41. On 21st September 1792, the monarchy was abolished and France was declared a \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) autocratic
- (b) democratic
- (c) communist
- (d) republic

Q.42. The period from \_\_\_\_\_ was referred to as the 'Reign of Terror'.

- (a) 1793-1794
- (b) 1794-1795
- (c) 1795-1796
- (d) 1792-1793

Q.43. Women of France were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) active citizens
- (b) passive citizens
- (c) executive
- (d) electors

Q.44. The women in France won the right to vote in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) 1946
- (b) 1942
- (c) 1945
- (d) 1947

Q.45. In which century the slave trade began?

- (a) sixteenth-century
- (b) fifteenth century
- (c) seventeenth century
- (d) eighteenth century

Q.46. When was Napoleon Bonaparte crowned as the Emperor of France?

- (a) 1801
- (b) 1802
- (c) 1803
- (d) 1804

Q.47. \_\_\_\_\_ was regarded as the moderniser of Europe in 1804.

- (a) Napoleon
- (b) Olympe de Gouges
- (c) Robespierre
- (d) Robespierre

Q.48. In the year \_\_\_\_\_ Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

- (a) 1814
- (b) 1813



- (c) 1815
- (d) 1816

Q.49. One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) leadership
- (b) censorship
- (c) invading force
- (d) slavery

Q.50. Name the two individuals from India who responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France

- (a) Tania Tope and Raja Rammohun Roy
- (b) Tipu Sultan and Laxmi Bai
- (c) Tipu Sultan and Rammohun Roy
- (d) Chandrasekhar Azad and Raja Rammohun Roy

Question No.	Answer	Question No.	Answer
1	B	26	C
2	B	27	D
3	A	28	A
4	A	29	C
5	A	30	A
6	B	31	B
7	C	32	B
8	C	33	C
9	D	34	B
10	D	35	A
11	C	36	B
12	B	37	D
13	D	38	C
14	D	39	A

15	D	40	A
16	D	41	D
17	A	42	A
18	A	43	B
19	A	44	A
20	B	45	C
21	C	46	D
22	B	47	A
23	A	48	C
24	D	49	B
25	D	50	C

1. Society based on freedom, equal laws and opportunities was advocated by :

- (a) Middle class and people of the Third Estate
- (b) Clergy and nobility
- (c) Philosophers such as John Locke and Rousseau
- (d) Englishmen Georges Danton and Arthur Young
- (c) Philosophers such as John Locke and Rousseau

2. Who advocated government based on Social Contract ?

- (a) Darwin
- (b) Spencer
- (c) Rousseau
- (d) Montesquieu
- (c) Rousseau

3. Members of the Third Estate were led by :

- (a) Louis XVI and Marie Antionette
- (b) Lenin and Kerensky
- (c) Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes
- (d) Rousseau and Voltaire
- (c) Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes

4. 18th century French society was divided into:

- (a) Castes
- (b) Four estates

(c) Three estates

(d) Two estates

► (c) Three estates

5. Where did the Third Estate form and announce the National Assembly ?

(a) Indoor Tennis Court

(b) Hall of Mirrors

(c) Firoz Shah Ground

(d) Winter Palace

► (a) Indoor Tennis Court

6. A broken chain symbolize:

(a) Chains used to fetter slaves

(b) Strength lies in unity

(c) Royal power

(d) Act of becoming free

► (d) Act of becoming free

7. Bundle of rods or fasces symbolize:

(a) Royal power

(b) Equality before law

(c) Law is the same for all

(d) Strength lies in unity

► (d) Strength lies in unity

8. The third estate enjoyed:

(a) Privileges by birth

(b) Feuded privileges

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) No Privilege

► (d) No Privilege

9. French society in the 18th century was divided into three estates, and only members of the \_\_\_\_\_ paid taxes.

(a) First estate

(b) Second estate

(c) Nobility and clergy

(d) Third estate

► (d) Third estate

10. Which of the following constituted the privileged class ?

(a) Clergy and peasants

(b) Peasants and Nobility

(c) First and Third Estate

(d) Clergy and Nobility

► (d) Clergy and Nobility

11. Voting in the Estates General was conducted on the principle of?

- (a) Each member one vote
- (b) Male adult franchise
- (c) Universal adult franchise
- (d) Each Estate one vote

► (d) Each Estate one vote

12. The greatest achievement of the National Assembly convened in France in 1789 was:

- (a) Issuing of Declaration of Rights.
- (b) The passing of laws checking the power of the monarch.
- (c) Establishment of a new judiciary.
- (d) Establishment of a new legislature.

► (a) Issuing of Declaration of Rights.

13. Who among the following consisted in the Second Estate ?

- (a) Nobles and Landlords
- (b) Priests and Church officials
- (c) Common People
- (d) Middle Class people

► (a) Nobles and Landlords

14. The most important of the privileges enjoyed by the clergy and nobility

- (a) Right to collect dues
- (b) Ownership of land
- (c) Participate in wars
- (d) Exemption from taxes to the state

► (d) Exemption from taxes to the state

15. Which of following fort was seized by the revolutionaries and set free the prisoners ?

- (a) Red fort
- (b) William fort
- (c) St. George fort
- (d) Bastille fort

► (d) Bastille fort

16. The Bastille was hated by all in France because:

- (a) It stood for the despotic power of the King.
- (b) It was a fortress prison.
- (c) Its commander tortured the inmates.
- (d) It housed some dreaded criminals.

► (a) It stood for the despotic power of the King.

17. The agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille on:

- (a) 4 July 1789
- (b) 5 May 1789

(c) 14 July 1789

(d) 24 July 1789

► (c) 14 July 1789

18. Which of the following believed social position must depend on merit ?

(a) Middle class

(b) Nobility

(c) Workers

(d) Peasants

► (a) Middle class

19. The French legacy to the world

(a) Democracy

(b) Socialism and nationalism

(c) Republicanism

(d) Liberty, Fraternity and Equality

► (d) Liberty, Fraternity and Equality

20. Which factor did not contribute to France's pre-revolution debt?

(a) The Seven Years' War

(b) The cost of maintaining the army and navy

(c) High tariffs on imported goods

(d) Upkeep at Versailles

► (c) High tariffs on imported goods

21. What did the red cap worn by Sans Culottes in France symbolise ?

(a) Liberty

(b) Brotherhood

(c) Love

(d) Equality

► (a) Liberty

22. Which of the following were national colours of France?

(a) Red-blue-yellow

(b) Red-white-black

(c) Red-yellow-white

(d) Blue-white-red

► (d) Blue-white-red

23. On what pretext was Louis XVI sentenced to death?

(a) Revolt

(b) Treason

(c) Helping Austria

(d) None of the above

► (b) Treason

24. Who wrote the pamphlet called 'What is the Third Estate' ?

(a) Mirabeau, a nobleman

(b) Abbe Sieyes

(c) Rousseau, a philosopher

(d) Montesquieu

► (b) Abbe Sieyes

25. Montesquieu wrote:

(a) The social control

(b) Two Treatises of government

(c) The spirit of laws

(d) From monarchy to diarchy

► (c) The spirit of laws

26. What was the name of tax which was directly paid to the state by the Third Estate ?

(a) Tithes

(b) Livres

(c) Taille

(d) All of the above

► (c) Taille

27. On which of the following date fortress prison - the Bastille was stormed by the people of Paris?

(a) 10 July 1789

(b) 14 July 1789

(c) 18 July 1789

(d) 22 July 1789

► (b) 14 July 1789

28. Which of the following refuted the doctrine of divine and absolute right ?

(a) John Locke

(b) Rousseau

(c) Montesquieu

(d) Voltaire

► (a) John Locke

29. In the context of France what was "the Convention" ?

- (a) A French school
- (b) The newly elected assembly
- (c) The club
- (d) A women organisation
- (b) The newly elected assembly

30. What was 'Estates General' ?

- (a) Post of Army General
- (b) A political body
- (c) Head of all landed property
- (d) Advisor of the king
- (b) A political body

31. The members of National Assembly were

- (a) Nominated
- (b) Indirectly elected
- (c) Directly elected
- (d) Appointed by the king
- (b) Indirectly elected

32. A guillotine was \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded
- (b) A fine sword with which heads were cut off
- (c) A special noose to hang people
- (d) None of the above
- (a) A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded

**Q1. On ..... the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The king had commanded troops to move into the city.**

- A. 15 July 1779
- B. 14 July 1779
- C. 15 July 1789
- D. 14 July 1789

**Q2. Some 7,000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a .....?**

- A. Peoples party
- B. Peoples' militia

- C. Peoples democracy
- D. Peoples presence

**Q3. Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the ..... part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition?**

- A. Eastern
- B. Northern
- C. Western
- D. Southern

**Q4. Why was the fortress-prison, the Bastille, hated by all?**

- A. It stood for the despotic power of the king.
- B. Because of dictatorship
- C. Aristocracy
- D. None of these

**Q5. What was the main protest by the people?**

- A. Price of bread
- B. Behavior of the king
- C. Poverty of the people
- D. High taxes

**Q6. Who said “ the task of representing the people has to be given to the rich”?**

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Jean Paul Marat
- C. Rousseau
- D. Georges Denton

**Q7. The National Assembly formed a constitution in 1791, to limit the power of the .....?**

- A. Wealthy men
- B. Businessmen
- C. Monarch
- D. Press

**Q8. Who wrote the influential pamphlet- ‘What is the Third Estate’?**

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Jean Paul Marat
- C. Abbe Sieyes



D. Georges Denton

**Q9. Which group of people did not join the Jacobin Club?**

- A. Artisans
- B. Shopkeepers
- C. Daily wage workers
- D. Men with property

**Q10. French women demanded the right to.....?**

- A. Vote
- B. To be elected in the assembly
- C. To hold political office
- D. All

**Q11. A triangular slave trade took place between Europe, the Americas and.....?**

- A. Asia
- B. Australia
- C. Africa
- D. None

**Q12. What did the slaves wear after becoming free?**

- A. Blue cap
- B. Red cap
- C. White cap
- D. Green cap

**Q13. Who were not considered passive citizens?**

- A. Women
- B. Children
- C. Non property men
- D. Wealthy people

**Q14. The third estate comprised.....?**

- A. Poor and small peasants
- B. Land less labour
- C. Peasants and artisans
- D. All

**Q15. Which of the following decisions was taken by the convention?**

- A. It declared France a constitutional Monarchy

- B. Abolished the Monarchy
- C. All men and women above 21 got the right to vote
- D. Declared France a Republic

**Q16. How does a subsistence crisis happen?**

- A. Bad harvest leads of scarcity of grains
- B. Food prices rise and the poor cannot buy bread
- C. Leads to disease and death
- D. All

**Q17. Which of the following statements is false about the Third Estate?**

- A. It comprised of poor only
- B. Some were rich some were poor
- C. Rich members owned land
- D. Peasant were obliged to serve in the army

**Q18. What was a guillotine?**

- A. A device consisted of two poles and a blade to behead people
- B. A fine sword to behead people
- C. A special noose to hang people
- D. None of these

**Q19. What does the word livres stand for?**

- A. Unit of currency in France
- B. Tax levied by the state
- C. Tax levied by the Church
- D. Tax to the Landlord

**Q20. What was Estates General?**

- A. Post of army general
- B. A political body
- C. Head of all landed property
- D. Advisor of the king

**Q21. The term old regime is used to describe.....?**

- A. France before 1000 BC
- B. Society of France after 1789
- C. Society of France before 1789
- D. None

**Q22. Which of these books was written by John Locke?**

- A. The spirit of the laws
- B. Two treatises on Government
- C. The social contract
- D. All

**Q23. In the meeting of the Estates General, the members of the Third Estate demanded that.....**

- A. All the estates have one vote together
- B. Each estate should have one vote
- C. Each member of all three estates should have one vote each
- D. None

**Q24. Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?**

- A. Mirabeau
- B. Abbe Sieyes
- C. Louis XVI
- D. A & B

**Q25. Which of these provisions were passed by the Assembly on night of 4th August 1789?**

- A. Abolition of feudal system
- B. Clergy had to give up its privileges
- C. Tithes was abolished
- D. All

**Q26. According to the new constitution 1791, the National Assembly was to be ..... ?**

- A. Elected directly
- B. Appointed by the king
- C. Elected indirectly
- D. A hereditary body

**Q27. Which of the following is true is about Bastille Storming?**

- A. It was a fortress prison in France
- B. It represented despotic powers
- C. French common man hated Bastille
- D. All

**Q28. When did the fall of Bastille take place?**

- A. 14 July 1789
- B. 20 June 1789
- C. 4 August 1789
- D. 5 May 1789

**Q29. Which estates in France were exempted from paying taxes?**

- A. The first Estate
- B. The second Estate
- C. First and Second estate both
- D. The Third estate

**Q30. What was Tithes?**

- A. A tax levied by the Church
- B. Tax by the state
- C. Tax by the Monarch
- D. None

## Answer

Question No.	Answer	Question No.	Answer	Question No.	Answer
1	B	11	C	21	C
2	B	12	B	22	B
3	A	13	D	23	A
4	A	14	D	24	D
5	A	15	D	25	D
6	B	16	D	26	C
7	C	17	A	27	D
8	C	18	A	28	A

9	D	19	A	29	C
10	D	20	B	30	A

**1. On which day was Paris on alarm?**

Ans: 14th July 1789

**2. Whom did the king command to move into the city?**

Ans: The troops

**3. What rumour spread in Paris?**

Ans: Rumours spread in Paris that king had commanded his troops to move in the city and he would soon order the troops to open fire upon the citizens.

**4. How many people gathered in front of the town hall?**

Ans: Some 7000 men and women

**5. Why did they break into a number of government buildings?**

Ans: In search of arms and hoarded ammunition

**6. Why did a group of several hundred people storm the fortress prison Bastille?**

Ans: In search of hoarded ammunition

**7. How many prisoners were there in Bastille?**

Ans: Seven

**8. Why was Bastille hated by all?**

Ans: Because it stood for the despotic power of the king.

**9. Who bought the stone fragments of Bastille?**

Ans: Those who wished to keep the souvenir of its destruction.

**10. Who became the king of France in 1774?**

Ans: Louis XVI

**11. Which family did the king belong to?**

Ans: The king belonged to the bourbon family.

**12. At what age did Louis become the king of France?**

Ans: Louis XVI was 20 years old when he became the king of France.

**13. Who was Louis married to?**

Ans: He was married to Marie Antoniette.

**14. Upon his accession, what did he find?**

Ans: He found an empty treasury.

**15. Whom did France help under Louis Xi to gain their independence?**

Ans: France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain independence.

**16. What do you mean by the term Old Regime?**

Ans: The term Old Regime is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789.

**17. How many peasants were there in France?**

Ans: 90 percent of the total population.

**18. What do you mean by the term “tithes”?**

Ans: The tax taken by the churches from peasants was called tithes.

**19. Who were the members of the first two estates?**

Ans: Clergy and Nobility.

**20. What was the direct tax called?**

Ans: Taille

**21. Who had the burden of taxes of the state?**

Ans: The third estate alone had the burden of taxes.

**22. What services were the peasants obliged to render to the lord?**

Ans: The services rendered by the peasants are – to work in his house and fields, to serve in the army or to participate in building roads.

**23. What was the population of France in 1715?**

Ans: 23 million

**24. What was the population of France in 1789?**

Ans: 28 million

**25. What was the staple food of the people of France?**

Ans: Bread

**26. What is Subsistence Crisis?**

Ans: An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered is called subsistence crisis.

**27. What idea did the philosopher John Locke give?**

Ans: John Locke sought to refute the Doctrine of Divine and absolute right of the monarch.

**28. What idea did the philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau give?**

Ans: He gave the idea that there should be a relation between people and their representatives.

**29. What idea did Montesquieu give?**

Ans: Montesquieu gave the idea of the division of power within the government between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

**30. Where were the ideas of the philosophers discussed?**

Ans: The ideas of the philosophers were discussed in salons and coffee houses.

**31. Why could the king not pass the proposal for new taxes alone?**

Ans: Because he had to call the estates general to pass the proposal for new taxes.

**32. When was the last time meeting of the estates general called?**

Ans: In 1614

**33. When did Louis XVI call the meeting of the Estates General?**

Ans: On 5th May 1789

**34. Where were the delegates hosted?**

Ans: A resplendent hall in Versailles was prepared to host the delegates.

**35. How many representatives did the first and the second estates send?**

Ans: The first and the second estates sent 300 representatives each.

**36. How were the representatives of the first and the second estates seating in the assembly?**

Ans: The representatives of the first and the second estates were seating in rows facing each other on two sides.

**37. How many members were sent by the third estate?**

Ans: 600 members

**38. Who were standing at the back in the assembly?**

Ans: The representatives of the third estate.

**39. Who represented the third estate?**

Ans: The third estate was represented by its more prosperous and educated members.

**40. Who were denied entry to the assembly?**

Ans: Peasants, artisans and women were denied entry to the assembly.

**41. How many letters had the representatives of the third estate brought with themselves?**

Ans: 40000 letters containing the grievances and demands of those who could not come.

**42. On which principle had the estates general voted in the past?**

Ans: On the principle that each estate had one vote.

**43. What did the third estate demand?**

Ans: The representatives of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote.

**44. What happened when the king rejected the proposal of the third estate?**

Ans: The members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

**45. How did the representatives view themselves?**

Ans: The representatives of the third estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French Nation.

**46. When and where did they assemble?**

Ans: They assembled on 20th June on the ground of Versailles.

**47. What did the newly declared National Assembly swear?**

Ans: The newly elected National Assembly swore that they would not disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.

**48. Who led them?**

Ans: They were led by Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes.

**49. 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.

**50. What did Mirabeau do?**

Ans: Mirabeau brought a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds assembled at Versailles.

**51. Who was Abbe Sieyes?**

Ans: Abbe Sieyes was a priest.

**52. What was “What is the third estate”?**

Ans: “What is the third estate” was an influential pamphlet written by Abbe Sieyes.

**53. Where was the National Assembly Busy?**

Ans: In drafting constitution at Versailles.

**54. What had meant a bad harvest?**

Ans: Severe winter



**55. What did the crowds of angry women do after spending hours in long queues?**

Ans: After spending hours in long queues at bakery, crowds of angry women stormed into the shops.

**56. When and by whom was the fortress prison Bastille stormed?**

Ans: Bastille was stormed by the agitated crowd on 14th July 1789.

**57. What rumour spread in the countryside from village to village?**

Ans: In the countryside rumours spread from village to village that the lords of manor had hired bands of brigands who were on their way to destroy the ripe crops.

**58. Who were caught in a frenzy of fear?**

Ans: Peasants

**59. What did the peasants do in a frenzy of fear?**

Ans: Peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked Chateaux.

**60. What did the peasants loot?**

Ans: The peasants looted the hoarded grain.

**61. What did the peasants burn?**

Ans: The peasants burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues.

**62. What did the nobles do when the peasants attacked Chateaux?**

Ans: A large number of nobles fled from their homes and many of them migrated to neighbouring countries.

**63. What did Louis XI finally do?**

Ans: Louis XI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now be checked by a constitution.

**64. How did the Assembly abolish the feudal system of obligation and taxes?**

Ans: The assembly abolished the feudal system of obligation and taxes by passing a decree on the night of 4th August 1789.

**65. Members of which state were forced to give up their privileges?**

Ans: Clergy

**66. Whose lands were confiscated?**

Ans: Lands owned by church were confiscated.

**67. When did the National Assembly complete the draft constitution?**

Ans: The National Assembly completed the draft constitution in 1791.

**68. What was the main purpose of the constitution?**

Ans: The main object of the constitution was to limit the powers of the monarch.

**69. Who were now assigned the powers instead of being concentrated in one hand?**

Ans: Powers instead of being concentrated in the hands of one person, were now separated and assigned to different institutions – the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

**70. How did France become a constitutional monarchy?**

Ans: Powers instead of being concentrated in the hands of one person, were now separated and assigned to different institutions – the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. This made France a constitutional monarchy.

**71. Who had the right to choose the National Assembly?**

Ans: Citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the National Assembly.

**72. Who were Active Citizens?**

Ans: Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourers wage were given the status of Active Citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.

**73. Who were Passive Citizens?**

Ans: The remaining men and all women who did not pay taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourers wage were given the status of Passive Citizens.

**74. What was the eligibility to qualify as an elector and then as a member of the National Assembly?**

Ans: To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the National Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.

**75. With what did the constitution of France begin?**

Ans: The constitution of France began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man & Citizen.

**76. What were established as “Natural & Inalienable” rights?**

Ans: Rights such the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as “Natural & Inalienable” rights, that is, they belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away.

**77. Who had to protect each citizen’s natural rights?**

Ans: It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen’s natural rights.

**78. What does the broken chain stand for?**

Ans: The broken chain stands for the act of becoming free.

**79. What does ‘The bundle of rods of fasces’ mean?**

Ans: It means that one rod can be easily broken, but not an entire bundle. Strength lies in unity.

**80. What do you mean by ‘The eye within a triangle radiating light’?**

Ans: The all – Seeing Eye stands for knowledge. The rays of the sun will drive away the clouds of ignorance.

**81. What is sceptre?**

Ans: Sceptre is a symbol of power.

**82. What do you mean by “Snake biting its tail to form a ring”?**

Ans: It is a symbol of Eternity. A ring has neither beginning nor end.

**83. What do you mean by “Red Phrygian Cap”?**

Ans: It was the cap worn by a slave upon becoming free.

**84. What are the National Colours of France?**

Ans: Blue, White and Red are the National Colours of France.

**85. What do you mean by “Law Tablet”?**

Ans: It means that law is same for all, and all are equal before it.

**86. What did Louis XVI do after signing the constitution?**

Ans: After signing the constitution, Louis XVI entered into secret negotiations with the king Prussia.

**87. Against whom did the National Assembly declare war?**

Ans: The National Assembly declared war against Prussia & Austria.

**88. When did the National Assembly declare war against Prussia & Austria?**

Ans: The National Assembly declared war against Prussia & Austria in April 1792.

**89. Why were the rulers of other neighbouring countries worried by the developments in France?**

Ans: The rulers of other neighbouring countries were worried by the developments in France because they thought that like the citizens of France their citizens might also revolt.

**90. What had the kings of the neighbouring countries planned?**

Ans: The kings of the neighbouring countries had planned to send troops to put down the events that had been taking place in France since the summer of 1789.

**91. Who composed the song “Marseillaise”?**

Ans: The song “Marseillaise” was composed by the poet, Roget de L’isle.

**92. Who sang Marseillaise for the first time?**

Ans: The Volunteer who came to join the army sang Marseillaise for the first time while marching towards Paris from Marseilles.

**93. What is the National Anthem of France?**

Ans: “Marseillaise” is the National Anthem of France.

**94. What were the women doing while the men were away fighting at the front?**

Ans: While the men were away fighting at the front, women were left to cope with tasks of earning a living and looking after the families.

**95. What was the problem with the constitution of France?**

Ans: The constitution of 1791 in France gave political rights only to richer sections of society.

**96. What were the important rallying points?**

Ans: Political clubs became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of actions.

**97. Which was the most successful political club?**

Ans: Jacobin Club was the most successful political club.

**98. How did the Jacobin Club get its name?**

Ans: The Jacobin Club got its name from the former convent of St. Jacob in Paris.

**99. What were the women doing throughout the period?**

Ans: The women had been active throughout the period. They formed their own political clubs.

**100. Who were the members of the Jacobin Club?**

Ans: The members of the Jacobin Club were belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society like small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watch-makers, printers, as well as servants and daily wage workers.

**101. Who was the leader of the Jacobin Club?**

Ans: Maximilian Robespierre was the leader of the Jacobin Club.

**102. What did the Jacobins start wearing?**

Ans: A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers.

**103. What were the Jacobins known as/called?**

Ans: The Jacobins came to be known as the sans-culottes, literally meaning ‘those without knee breeches’.

**104. What did the sans-culottes men wear in addition?**

Ans: Sans-culottes men wore in addition the red cap that symbolized liberty.

**105. What were the women not allowed to wear?**

Ans: The women were not allowed to wear red cap.

**106. What happened in the palace of Tuileries?**

Ans: On the morning of August 10 they stormed the palace of Tuileries, massacred the king's guards and held the king himself as hostage for several hours.

**107. What happened to the royal family?**

Ans: The assembly voted to imprison the royal family.

**108. What was the newly elected assembly called?**

Ans: The newly elected assembly was called the convention.

**109. When was France declared a republic?**

Ans: On 21 September 1792

**110. What do you mean by a republic?**

Ans: A republic is a form of government where the people elect the government including the head of the government.

**111. What punishment was given to Louis XVI?**

Ans: Louis XVI was sentenced to death by a court on the charge of treason.

**112. Where and when was Louis XVI executed?**

Ans: Louis XVI was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde on 21st January 1793.

**113. Which period is referred to as the reign of terror?**

Ans: The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the reign of terror.

**114. What was Robespierre's policy?**

Ans: Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment.

**115. Whom did Robespierre see as being 'enemies' of the republic?**

Ans: Robespierre saw ex-nobles and clergy, members of other political parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods as being enemies of the republic.

**116. What happened to those whom Robespierre saw as being enemies of the republic?**

Ans: Those whom Robespierre saw as being enemies of the republic were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal. If the court found them guilty, they were guillotined.

**117. What was guillotine?**

Ans: Guillotine was a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded.

**118. Who invented guillotine?**

Ans: Dr. Guillotine

**119. How did guillotine get its name?**

Ans: The device got its name by Dr. Guillotine who invented it.

**120. What were peasants forced to do?**

Ans: The peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.

**121. What was forbidden to eat?**

Ans: The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden.

**122. What were all the citizens required to eat?**

Ans: All citizens were required to eat the pain d'egalite (equality bread), a loaf made of whole wheat.

**123. How else was equality sought to be practiced?**

Ans: Equality was also sought to be practiced through forms of speech and address.

**124. Instead of traditional address what were all French men & women called henceforth?**

Ans: Instead of the traditional Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) all French men & women were henceforth called Citoyen & Citiyenne (citizen).

**125. What were the buildings of the churches converted into?**

Ans: The buildings of the churches were converted into barracks and offices.

**126. What did the supporters of Robespierre begin demanding?**

Ans: Robespierre pursued his policies so relentlessly that even his supporters began to demand moderation.

**127. When and why was Robespierre arrested?**

Ans: Robespierre was convicted by court in July 1794, arrested and on the next day sent to the guillotine.

**128. Who got the opportunity to seize power after the fall of the Jacobin Government?**

Ans: After the fall of the Jacobin Government, middle classes got the opportunity to seize power.

**129. When were the non-propertied sections of society once again denied the**

**right to vote?**

Ans: After the fall of the Jacobin Government the new constitution denied the non-propertied sections of society right to vote.

**130. How many legislative councils were provided in the new constitution?**

Ans: The new constitution provided for two elected legislative councils.

**131. Who elected the directory?**

Ans: The two legislative council elected the directory.

**132. What was directory?**

Ans: Directory was an executive made up of five directors (members).

**133. What was the reason of the directory to be instable?**

Ans: The directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who then sought to dismiss them.

**134. What paved the way for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte?**

Ans: The political instability of the directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

**135. How can you say that women were active during the revolution?**

Ans: From the very beginning women were active participants in the events which brought so many changes in the French society.

**136. What did most women of the third estate do?**

Ans: Most women of the third estate had to work for a living.

**137. What was the hope of the women involved in the revolution?**

Ans: The women involved in the revolution hoped that their involvement would pressurize the revolutionary government.

**138. What did the women work as?**

Ans: The women worked as seamstresses or laundresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables at market or were employed as domestic servants in the houses of prosperous people.

**139. What did most women lack?**

Ans: Most women did not have access to education or job training.

**140. Whose daughters could study at a convent?**

Ans: Only the daughters of nobles or wealthier members of the third estate could study at a convent, after which their families arranged a marriage for them.

**141. What was the condition of the working women?**

Ans: Working women had also to care for their families, that is, cook, fetch water, queue up for bread and look after their children.

**142. Why did women start their own political clubs and newspaper?**

Ans: Women started their own political clubs and newspapers in order to discuss and voice their interests.

**143. How many woman's clubs came up in different French cities?**

Ans: About sixty women's clubs came up in different French cities.

**144. Which was the most famous women's club?**

Ans: The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Woman was the most famous women's club.

**145. What was the main demand of the women?**

Ans: One of the main demands of the women was that women enjoy the same political rights as men.

**146. Why were the women disappointed by the Constitution of 1791?**

Ans: Women were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to Passive Citizens.

**147. What were the demands of the women?**

Ans: The women wanted the right to vote, to be elected to the assembly and to hold political office.

**148. What was compulsory for all girls?**

Ans: Together with opening of the state schools, schooling was made compulsory for all girls.

**149. Who tried to improve the lives of women?**

Ans: In early years the revolutionary government introduced laws to improve the lives of women.

**150. What could girls no longer be forced to do?**

Ans: The girls could no longer be forced into a marriage against their will by their fathers.

**151. Which law was issued about marriage?**

Ans: Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and registered under civil law. Divorce was made legal.

**152. Who could apply for divorce now?**

Ans: Divorce now could be applied for by both men and women.

**153. What things could women do now?**

Ans: Women could now train for job, could become artists or run small businesses.

**154. When were the women's clubs closed?**



Ans: During the reign of terror the new government issued laws ordering closure of the women's clubs and banning their political activities.

**155. What was the condition of the prominent women during the reign of terror?**

Ans: Many prominent women were arrested and many of them were executed.

**156. How long did women's movements for voting rights and equal wages continue?**

Ans: Women's movements for voting rights and equal wages continued through the next two centuries in many countries in the world.

**157. How was the fight for vote carried?**

Ans: The fight for vote was carried through an International Suffrage Movement during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

**158. Why was the example of the political activities of the French women kept alive?**

Ans: The example of the political activities of the French women was kept alive as an inspiring memory.

**159. In which year did the women of France win the right to vote?**

Ans: In 1946

**160. Name any one most revolutionary social reform of the Jacobin Regime?**

Ans: One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin Regime was the abolition of slavery in French colonies.

**161. Who were the important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee?**

Ans: The colonies in the Caribbean – Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo were important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee.

**162. Why was there a shortage of labour on the plantations?**

Ans: The reluctance of Europeans to go and work in distant and unfamiliar lands meant a shortage of labour on the plantations.

**163. When did the slave trade begin?**

Ans: The slave trade began in the seventeenth century.

**164. What do you mean by the triangular slave trade?**

Ans: The slave trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas is known as the triangular slave trade.

**165. Where did the French merchants buy slaves?**

Ans: The French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux and Nantes to the African coast where they bought slaves from local chieftains.

**166. How did the French merchants bring slaves to the Caribbean?**

Ans: Branded and shackled, the slaves were packed tightly into ships for three months long voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean.

**167. Who bought the slaves from the French merchants in the Caribbean?**

Ans: The plantation owners bought the slave from the French merchants in the Caribbean.

**168. How was the growing demand in European markets for sugar, coffee and indigo met?**

Ans: The growing demand in European markets for sugar, coffee and indigo was met by the exploitation of slave labour.

**169. What was the importance of slave trade for port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes?**

Ans: Port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes owed their economic prosperity to the flourishing slave trade.

**170. What did the National Assembly do to abolish slavery?**

Ans: The National Assembly held long debates about whether the rights of man should be extended to all French subjects including those in the colonies.

**171. When were the slaves in the French overseas possessions freed?**

Ans: The convention in the 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.

**172. Who reintroduced slavery in France?**

Ans: Ten years later Napoleon reintroduced slavery in France.

**173. How did the plantation owners understand their freedom?**

Ans: The plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave African Negros in pursuit of their economic interests.

**174. When was slavery finally abolished in French colonies?**

Ans: Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

**175. Who passed laws to translate the ideals of liberty and equality into everyday practice?**

Ans: The revolutionary governments took it upon themselves to pass the laws that would translate the ideals of liberty and equality into everyday practice.

**176. Name any one important law that came into effect soon after the storming of Bastille?**

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

**177. What was proclaimed to be a natural right?**

Ans: The Declaration of the rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.

**178. What do you mean by the “Freedom of Press”?**

Ans “Freedom of Press” means that opposing views of events can be expressed.

**179. What attracted a large number of people?**

Ans: Plays, songs and festive processions attracted a large number of people.

**180. When did Napoleon Bonaparte crown himself emperor of France?**

Ans: Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France in 1804.

**181. What did Napoleon Bonaparte set out to conquer?**

Ans: Napoleon Bonaparte set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms where he placed member of his family.

**182. What did Napoleon see his role as?**

Ans: Napoleon saw his role as a modernizer of Europe.

**183. Name some laws introduced by Napoleon?**

Ans: Napoleon introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.

**184. What was Napoleon seen as?**

Ans: Many people saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people.

**185. What was the Napoleonic Armies come to be viewed as?**

Ans: Soon the Napoleonic Armies came to be viewed as an invading force.

**186. When and where was Napoleon defeated?**

Ans: Napoleon was defeated in 1815 at Waterloo.

**187. Which revolutionary ideas of Napoleon had a long effect?**

Ans: The revolutionary ideas of liberty and modern laws had an impact on people long after Napoleon had left.

**188. What were the most important legacy of the French Revolution?**

Ans: The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution.

**189. Name the two individuals of India who responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France?**

Ans: Tipu Sultan and Raja Ram Mohan Roy

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Storming of the Bastille
  - (a) 14th July, 1789
  - (b) 14th July, 1798
  - (c) 14th June, 1789
  - (d) 14th June, 1798
2. The Bastille symbolised
  - (a) benevolence of the king
  - (b) despotic power of the king
  - (c) armed might of France
  - (d) prestige and power
3. 18th century French society was divided into
  - (a) castes
  - (b) four Estates
  - (c) three Estates
  - (d) two Estates
4. Which of the following constituted the privileged class?
  - (a) Clergy and peasants
  - (b) Peasants and nobility
  - (c) First and Third Estate
  - (d) Clergy and nobility
5. The most important of the privileges enjoyed by the clergy and nobility
  - (a) right to collect dues
  - (b) ownership of land
  - (c) participate in wars
  - (d) exemption from taxes to the state
6. Which of the following believed social position must depend on merit?
  - (a) Middle class
  - (b) Nobility
  - (c) Workers
  - (d) Peasants
7. Society based on freedom, equal laws and opportunities was advocated by
  - (a) middle class and people of the Third Estate
  - (b) clergy and nobility
  - (c) philosophers such as John Locke and Rousseau
  - (d) Englishmen Georges Danton and Arthur Young
8. Which of the following refuted the doctrine of divine and absolute right?

- (a) John Locke
- (b) Rousseau
- (c) Montesquieu
- (d) Voltaire

9. Who advocated government based on Social Contract?

- (a) Darwin
- (b) Spencer
- (c) Rousseau
- (d) Montesquieu

10. Division of power within the government was put forth in

- (a) 'Two Treaties of Government'
- (b) 'The Spirit of the Laws'
- (c) 'Le Moniteur Universel'
- (d) 'The Social Contract'

11. King in France at the time of the Revolution

- (a) Louis XIV
- (b) Louis XVI
- (c) Marie Antoinette
- (d) Nicholas II

12. Political body of France

- (a) Duma
- (b) Reichstag
- (c) Lok Sabha
- (d) Estates General

13. Voting in the Estates General was conducted on the principle of

- (a) each member one vote
- (b) male adult franchise
- (c) universal adult franchise
- (d) each Estate one vote

14. The Estates General was last convened in

- (a) 1604
- (b) 1614
- (c) 1416
- (d) 1641

15. Where did the Third Estate form and announce the National Assembly?

- (a) Indoor Tennis Court
- (b) Hall of Mirrors
- (c) Firoz Shah Ground
- (d) Winter Palace

16. Members of the Third Estate were led by

- (a) Louis XVI and Marie Antionette
- (b) Lenin and Kerensky
- (c) Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes
- (d) Rousseau and Voltaire

17. Which of the following was the main objective of the Constitution of 1791?

- (a) to limit the powers of the king alone
- (b) do away with feudal privileges
- (c) give equal rights to women
- (d) establish a constitutional monarchy

18. A broken chain symbolised

- (a) Chains used to fetter slaves
- (b) Strength lies in unity
- (c) Royal power
- (d) Act of becoming free

19. The winged woman personified

- (a) National colours of France
- (b) Act of becoming free
- (c) Personification of Law
- (d) Rays of the Sun will drive away the clouds of ignorance

20. Bundle of rods or fasces symbolised

- (a) Royal power
- (b) Equality before law
- (c) Law is the same for all
- (d) Strength lies in unity

21. Which of the following symbolised Eternity?

- (a) Sceptre
- (b) Eye within a triangle radiating light
- (c) The Law Tablet
- (d) Snake biting its tail to form a ring

22. Which of the following were the national colours of France during the?

- (a) Blue-green-yellow
- (b) Red-green-blue
- (c) Blue-white-red
- (d) Yellow-red-white

23. National Anthem of France

- (a) Vande Matram
- (b) Roget de L Isle
- (c) Le Moniteur Universel
- (d) Morseillaise

24. Members of the Jacobin Club were known as

- (a) Conservatives
- (b) Revolutionaries
- (c) Terrorists
- (d) San-culottes

25. France on 21st September, 1792 was declared a

- (a) Socialist State
- (b) Democracy
- (c) Communist State
- (d) Republic

26. Which of the following was a factor in the rise of Napoleon?

- (a) Fall of the Jacobin government
- (b) Robespierres Reign of Terror
- (c) Political instability of the Directory
- (d) Nationalist forces

27. French legacy to the world

- (a) Democracy
- (b) Socialism and nationalism
- (c) Republicanism
- (d) Liberty, Freedom and Equality

Answers:

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (c)  | 4. (d)  | 5. (d)  | 6. (a)  |
| 7. (c)  | 8. (a)  | 9. (c)  | 10. (b) | 11. (b) | 12. (d) |
| 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) | 16. (c) | 17. (d) | 18. (d) |
| 19. (c) | 20. (d) | 21. (d) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (d) |
| 25. (d) | 26. (c) | 27. (d) |         |         |         |