

CHAPTER-I

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

2 MARK QUESTIONS

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

ANSWER:

The following democratic rights originated in France during the French Revolution:

1. Right to Equality, before law and in opportunities
2. Right to Freedom of Speech, Expression and against Exploitation
3. Right to Constitutional Remedies

2. Who was the ruler of France during the revolution?

ANSWER:

Louis XVI of the Bourbon family was the ruler of France.

3. Name the three 'Estates' into which the French society was divided before the Revolution.

ANSWER:

The First Estate — Clergy

The Second Estate — Nobility

The Third Estate — Common people.

4.What was the theme of the book 'The Spirit of the Laws' written by Montesquieu?

ANSWER:

Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

5.Name any four French philosophers who inspired the French people to revolt.

ANSWER:

- Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Montesquieu
- Voltaire
- Maximilian Robespierre.

4 MARK QUESTIONS

1. 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?

ANSWER:

The people from the lower class of the society benefited from the French Revolution as they had been opened to newer opportunities. This class had peasants, who worked on farms and cattle, the artisans, who used to construct several new buildings, etc. The influential people already, such as the nobles and the royal families, including the Church had to give up their power and they were disappointed with the outcome of the French Revolution.

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

ANSWER:

The French Revolution can be regarded as the beginning of the Colonial and Feudal systems in the world. After the United States of America adopted democracy as its mode of government, several people in France also advocated for the same which turned out to be successful. Due to this, most of the European nations abolished the feudal systems and became more democratic. Also, these ideas were spread to the European colonies as well which caused them to adopt democracy as well. In short, we can say that the world practices democracy because the French Revolution talked about its success to the world.

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

ANSWER:

Yes, the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions because the rights were given only to the males in the society. The French Constitution did not give any rights to women. In fact, initially, the women were ignored completely. Also, not every citizen was entitled to vote. So, although a lot was done with good intent, a lot of improvement was left at that point due to which the French Constitution has been changed multiple times since the Revolution.

4. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

ANSWER:

After the Republication of France after 1791, the king gave the powers to the wealthier section of the society which led to exploitation of people and after his death, there was no king and a directory used to govern. However, the members of the directory did not share common interests and fought with each other leading to the collapse of the system. This gave Napoleon Bonaparte a chance to rise as a military ruler in France.

5. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

ANSWER:

The revolutionary protests in France were caused due to the following reasons:

1. France and Britain had fought wars for American independence which burdened the French economy. Thus, the public had to pay more taxes and was frustrated.
2. Merit was replaced by birth privileges. The people being born in privileged families were given more important positions due to which the commoners had little scope for growth into the society.
3. Due to the birth-based privileges, the power of the society was concentrated in the hands of a few families which again led to discontent among the people.
4. Due to the emergence of the middle class, the revolution could sustain as they were not underprivileged and raised their voice against such unjust practices instead of simply giving in.

7 MARK QUESTIONS

1.What compelled Louis XVI to raise taxes in France?

ANSWER:

Wars and Economic Crisis : In 1774, when Louis XVI ascended the throne, he found an empty treasury. The nation had gone into deep debt because of the fighting in the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and the Revolutionary War in America under Louis XVI. In this war, France helped the 13 American colonies to gain their independence from Britain. The war added more than a billion livres to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion livres.

Debt Trap: 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.

Extravagant Court: France under various kings had an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles.

2.Explain the impact of the French Revolution on the life of people of French.

ANSWER:

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

The Constitution of 1791 began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. It proclaimed that Freedom of speech and opinion and equality before law were natural rights of each human being by birth. These could not be taken away.

Newspapers, pamphlets and printed pictures appeared steadily in the towns of France. From there, they travelled into the countryside. These publications described and discussed the events and changes taking place in the country.

3.The inequality that existed in the French Society in the Old Regime became the cause of French Revolution". Justify the statement by giving three suitable examples.

ANSWER:

The examples are :

- French Society was divided into three Estates. The First Estate comprised of clergy, the Second Estate comprised of nobility and the Third Estate comprised of businessmen, traders, merchants, artisans, peasants and servants.
- The members of Church and nobility enjoyed certain privileges by birth, the most important being the exemption from paying taxes to the State.
- Feudal dues were extracted by nobles from peasants and one-tenth of the agricultural produce of peasants, in the form of Tithes came to the share of clergy. All members of the Third Estate including peasants paid taxes, thus, the burden of financing activities of the the state through taxes was borne by the Third Estate alone creating heavy discontentment.

4.How did philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France?

ANSWER:

Philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France as :

- Major changes were introduced in the Russian economy and agriculture after the revolution. Private property was abolished and land became a state property. Peasants had the freedom to cultivate on state " – controlled land.
- A proper system of centralized planning was introduced with the help of five year plans. It helped in bringing about

technological improvements, economic growth and helped in removing the inequalities in the society.

- The revolution acknowledged right to work and identified dignity of labour. Socialist economy added a new dimension to democracy, by attributing it as a socio-economic system.

5.What was the role of philosophers and thinkers in the French Revolution? Explain by giving three examples.

ANSWER:

The philosophers and thinkers believed that, no group in a society should be privileged by birth. They supported a society based on freedom and equal laws.

In his Two Treatises of government, John Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch.

Rousseau carried the idea forward, proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives. In The Spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

6.What measures were taken by Robespierre to bring equality in the French Society? HOTS

ANSWER:

Measures are :

- Robespierre government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.
- Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.
- The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden; all citizens were required to eat the quality bread, a loaf made of whole wheat.

- Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.
- Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.
- Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.

7.How did the peasants contribute to the outbreak of the French Revolution? Explain. HOTS

ANSWER:

Contribution of the peasants to the outbreak of the French Revolution :

- The peasants had to pay various taxes to the government, to the nobles and to the Church.
- They were subjected to forced labour, they had to work free in the land of the nobles for three days in a week.
- Crops were trampled by hunting parties of the nobles. About 81% of their income went to the State, Nobles, Church, 19% of the income was their to live on grass and roofs and 1,000 peoples of them died due to starvation. As as whole, the Administration was corrupt.

8.State the events that led to the formation of the National Assembly.

ANSWER:

The Estates General was a political body of France to which the three estates sent their representatives. The voting in it had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote.

This time too when Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General, he decided to continue the same old practice.

But the members of the Third Estate demanded that voting now be conducted on the democratic principle of one person, one vote.

When the king rejected this proposal, the members of the Third Estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

They assembled on 20 June, 1789 in the hall of an indoor tennis court in Versailles. These representatives of the Third Estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for whole French nation. They declared themselves a National Assembly.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

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

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

3. class 9 history chapter 1 mcq with answers

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

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

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

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

7.Upon becoming free, the slave wore:

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

Answer: (c) red cap

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of Kings ascended the throne of **France.**

2. What was newly elected assembly called **The newly elected assembly was called the convention.**

3. The burden of financial activities of state during the Old Regime was borne by the **Third estate.**

4. In France, the eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of a social group, termed as the **Middle class.**

5. The American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights was an important example for political thinkers in **France.**

SUMMARY

What was the French Revolution? The French Revolution was a period of major social upheaval that began in 1787 and ended in 1799. It sought to completely change the relationship between the rulers and those they governed and to redefine the nature of political power.