

# 01. The French Revolution

## SESSION 1 -

I. Very Short Answer Type Question (One word & one sentence).

**01. In which year the French Revolution broke out?**

**Ans.** 14 On July 1789.

**02. How many men prisoners were there in the fortress-prison the Bastille?**

**Ans.** Only Seven.

**03. In which year Louis XVI ascended the throne of France?**

**Ans.** In 1774.

**04. To which family of kings, Louis XVI belonged to?**

**Ans.** Bourbon family.

**05. How many men and women gathered in the city of Paris on 14 July 1789?**

**Ans.** Some 7000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall in the city of Paris on 14 July 1789.

**06. Why few people marched towards the eastern side of the city of Paris?**

**Ans.** 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.

**07. Why the Bastille hated by all?**

**Ans.** The Bastille was hated by all because it stood for the despotic power of the King.

**II. Short Answer Type Questions.**

**01. Explain the three reasons which led to the financial decline of France in 1789.**

**Ans.** The three reasons which led to the financial decline of France in 1789 were as follows:

- Long years of wars in which France was involved.

# 01. The French Revolution

- Extravagant lifestyle of Louis XVI and his wife and the cost of maintaining the Palace of Versailles.
- Louis XVI took a loan of 1 billion livre to help the 13 colonies of North America to gain freedom from common enemy Britain.

**02. Who enjoyed the privilege by birth in the French society? What was that privilege?**

**Ans.** The Clergy and the Nobility enjoyed the privilege by birth. The privilege was that they were exempted from paying any tax.

**03. Explain the reasons which led to subsistence crisis in France in the year 1789.**

**Ans.** The reasons which led to subsistence crisis in France in the year 1789 were as follows:

- Increase of population to 23 million to 28 million in 1789.
- Low production of food grains and high price of breads.
- Bad climatic conditions such as drought or hails affected the harvest.

**04. What is Tithe and Taille?**

**Ans.** Tithe- A tax levied by the church, comprising one-tenth of the agricultural produce.  
Taille-Tax to be paid directly to the state.

**05. Name the book written by John Locke.**

**Ans.** The book written by John Locke was "Two Treatises of Government".

**06. Name the book written by Montesquieu.**

**Ans.** In the book "The Spirit of the Laws" by Montesquieu, he proposed a division of power within the government. between the legislative, executive and judiciary.

**07. Name the book written by Rousseau.**

**Ans.** Rousseau in his book "The Social Contract" is proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.

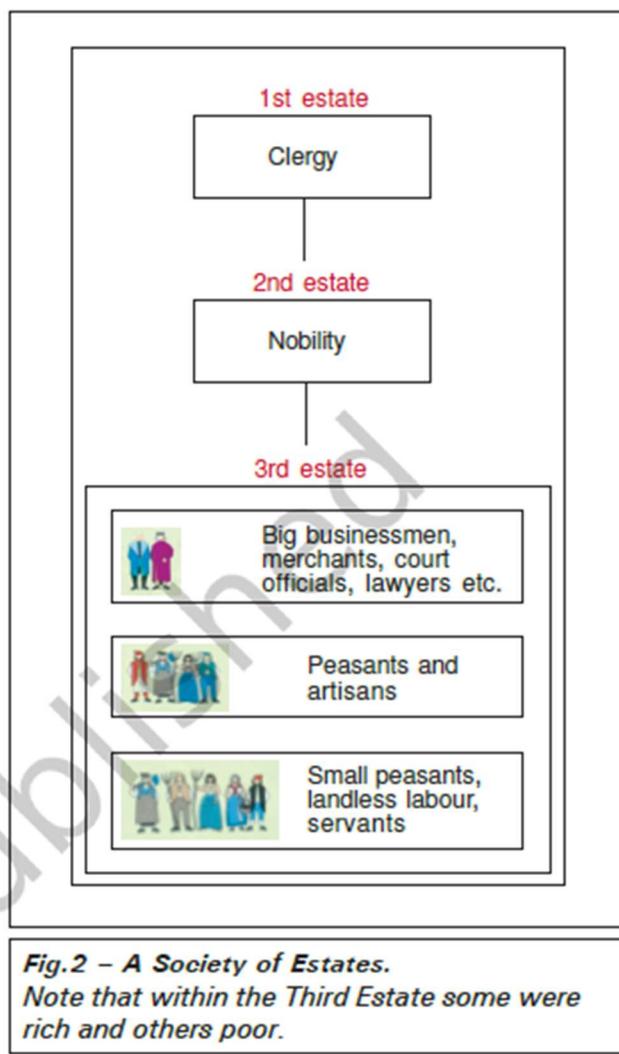
# 01. The French Revolution

## 08. Into how many estates the French society was divided?

**Ans.** The French society was divided into three estates:

- Clergy 1st Estate.
- Nobility-2nd Estate.
- Big Businessmen, merchants, etc.
- Peasants & Artisans.
- Small Peasants, landless labours, servants.

} 3rd Estate



## III. Long Answer Type questions.

### 01. Write a short note on the emergence of middle class of France.

**Ans.** The eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of social groups, termed on the middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen or silk textiles that were either exported or bought by richer members of society.

# 01. The French Revolution

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

These ideas envisaging 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.

## SESSION 2 –

### **01. What was the Estates General and why Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General in 1789?**

**Ans.** The Estates General was a political body to which the three estates send their representatives.

On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes. A resplendent hall in Versailles was prepared to host the delegates. The first and the second estates sent 300 representatives each, who were seated in rows facing each other on two sides, while the 600 members of the third estate had to stand at the back.

### **02. What was the system of voting in the Estates General and what change did the third estate demanded?**

**Ans.** 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. When the king rejected this proposal, members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

### **03. Explain how the members of the third estate formed the National Assembly.**

**Ans.** When the king rejected the proposal of one member one vote, 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. 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.

### **04. Explain how France became a constitutional monarchy.**

**Ans.** 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

# 01. The French Revolution

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.

## 05. Who were termed as active citizens and passive citizens in France?

**Ans.** In the Constitution of 1791 of France, all citizens were not given the right to vote. Active Citizens – Only men above 25 years of age and who paid taxes equal to 3 days of a labourers' wages were given the status of active citizens and were entitled to vote.

Passive Citizens – The remaining men and all the women were classed as passive citizens.

## 06. Mention the fundamental rights granted under the Constitution of 1791.

**Ans.** 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.

## SESSION 3 –

### 01. Who composed the National Anthem of France?

**Ans.** The Marseillaise is now the National Anthem of France which was composed by Roget de L'Isle.

### 02. Write a short note on the Jacobin club created in France.

**Ans.** 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 Maximilien Robespierre. A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers. This was to set themselves apart from the fashionable sections of society, especially nobles, who wore knee breeches. It was a way of proclaiming the end of the power wielded by the wearers of knee breeches. These Jacobins came to be known as the sans-culottes, literally meaning 'those without knee breeches'. Sans-culottes men wore in addition the red cap that symbolised liberty.

### 03. When France became a republic.

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

# 01. The French Revolution

## 04. What is treason?

**Ans.** Treason is referred to as the betrayal of one's country or government.

## 05. When, where and by whom Louis XVI was executed publicly?

**Ans.** Louis XVI was sentenced to death by a court on the charge of treason. On 21 January 1793 he was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde.

## 06. Explain the Reign of Terror.

**Ans.**

- The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the Reign of Terror. Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment.
- 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. If the court found them 'guilty' they were guillotined.
- Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling 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.
- The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden; all citizens were required to eat the pain d'égalité (equality bread), a loaf made of wholewheat. 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).
- Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices. Finally, he was convicted by a court in July 1794, arrested and on the next day sent to the guillotine.

## SESSION 4 –

### 01. In which year women got the right to vote? – 1946

## SESSION 5 –

### 01. Explain the slave trade practised in France during the seventeenth century.

**Ans.**

- 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

# 01. The French Revolution

between Europe, Africa and the Americas. The slave trade began in the seventeenth century.

- French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains. 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.
- Port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes owed their economic prosperity to the flourishing slave trade.
- The National Assembly held long debates about whether the rights of man should be extended to all French subjects including those in the colonies. But it did not pass any laws, fearing opposition from businessmen whose incomes depended on the slave trade.
- 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. Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

## SESSION 6 –

### 01. Mention the reforms introduced by Napoleon.

**Ans.** The reforms introduced by Napoleon were as follows:

- In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries.
- 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.
- 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.

### 02. What were the legacies of the French Revolution?

**Ans.** The legacies of the French Revolution were – Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

---

As the **SESSION 3** is being taught, we cannot give you the notes of Session 3.

**Sources – NCERT Book: India and the Contemporary World – I**

Binita Jain Ma'am's notes. Thanks for contributing to **Gamer Inc.**