

# 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 man 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.

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- Extravagant by 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 Treaties 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.

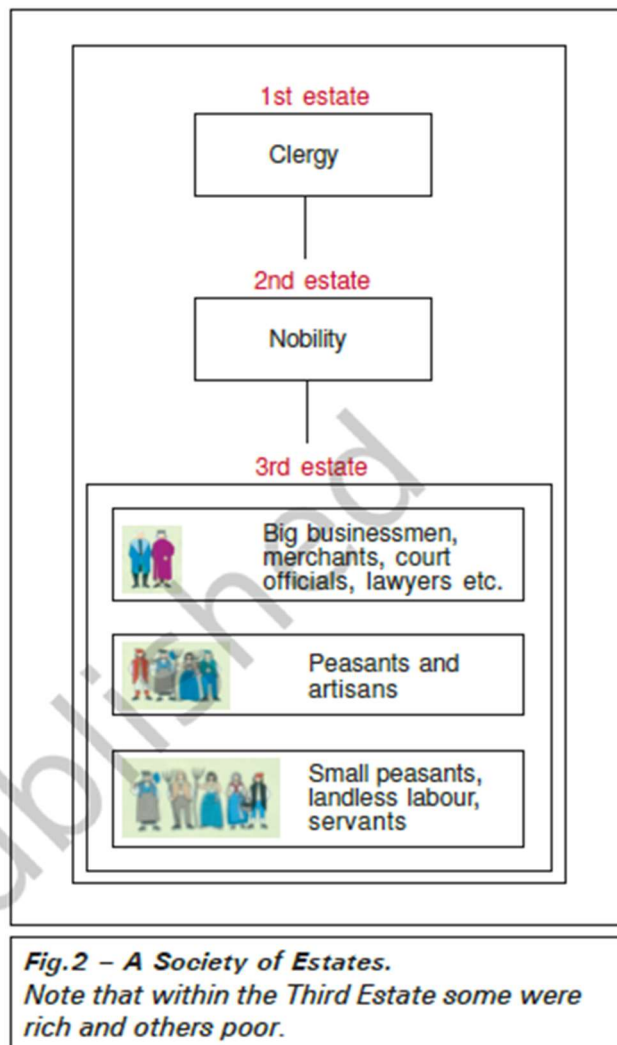
**Ans.** Rousseau in his book "The Social contracts" is proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.

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**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.

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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 Jack 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

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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.

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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.**