

SOCIAL STUDIES (HISTORY)
CHAPTER-1: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
(Extra Q&A)

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 1. The Third Estate comprised of what?**
Poor servants and small peasants, landless labourers, peasants, artisans, big businessmen, merchants, lawyers, etc.
- 2. Who advocated 'each member should have one vote'?**
Rousseau
- 3. What decision was taken by the convention?**
It declared France a Republic
- 4. How does a 'Subsistence Crisis' happen?**
'Subsistence Crisis' happened in France due to the following reasons: (i) Bad harvest; (ii) Scarcity of grains; and (iii) High prices of food
- 5. In the war against Prussia and Austria, the army sang which patriotic song?**
'Marseillaise' written by the poet Roget de Lisle
- 6. Who wrote the pamphlet called 'What is the Third Estate'?**
Abbe Sieyes
- 7. A guillotine was ...**
A device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded.
- 8. When did the French Revolution begin?**
July 14, 1789
- 9. The word "Livres" stands for _____**
Unit of currency in France
- 10. What was the effect of the rise of population of France from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789?**
Rapid increase in the demand for food grains.
- 11. What was the 'Subsistence Crisis' which occurred frequently in France?**
An extreme situation endangered the basic means of livelihood.
- 12. What was the name of tax which was directly paid to the state by the Third Estate?**
Taille
- 13. What was 'Estates General'?**
A political body
- 14. Which social groups emerged in the 18th century?**
Lawyers, Administrative officials, Middle class
- 15. The term 'Old Regime' is usually used to describe _____**
Society and institutions of France before 1789 A.D.

- 16. In which of these countries was the model of government as advocated by Montesquieu put into effect?**
USA
- 17. 'Two Treatises on Government' book was written by whom?**
John Locke
- 18. When did Louis XVI call an assembly of Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes?**
05 May, 1789
- 19. In the meeting of the Estates General, the members of the Third Estate demanded that ____**
All the three Estates should have one vote.
- 20. On 20th June, the representatives of the Third Estate assembled in the indoor tennis court of Versailles for ____**
Drafting a Constitution for France which limited the king's power.
- 21. Who led the representatives of the Third Estate in Versailles on 20th June?**
Mirabeau And Abbe Sieyes
- 22. What did Louis XVI do, seeing the power of his revolting subjects?**
He accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted checks on his powers.
- 23. According to the new constitution of 1791, the National Assembly was to be ____**
Elected indirectly
- 24. Which people were entitled to vote in France?**
Only men above 25 years of age and who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage
- 25. Whom did Louis XVI marry?**
Louis XVI married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette.
- 26. Who was common enemy of France and America?**
Britain
- 27. Who owned the lands in French society?**
About 60% of the land was owned by Nobles, the Church and other richer members of the third estate. Peasants comprised of 90% of the total population, however only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated.
- 28. Which privileges was enjoyed by the first two estates?**
The members of the first two estates, i.e. 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 collect from the peasants.
- 29. Which thought was put forward by John Locke in his book Two Treatises of Government?**
He refuted 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.

30. Which thought was put forward by Montesquieu?

In the Spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

31. How was ideas of the philosophers spread among people?

The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers. These were frequently read aloud in groups for the benefit of those who could not read and write.

32. Name two important leaders of the National Assembly.

Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes were two important leaders of the National Assembly.

33. What was the important decree the Assembly legislated?

The Assembly passed a decree abolishing feudal system of obligations and taxes.

34. Name the popular political club of France.

The Jacobin Club was one of the most popular political clubs in France.

35. Name the leader of the Jacobin Club.

Maximilian Robespierre was leader of the Jacobin Club.

36. On what a charge was Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette beheaded?

Both Louis XVI and later Marie Antoinette were beheaded on charges of treason.

37. The 'Reign of Terror' is referred to which period in French revolutionary history?

Reign of Maximilian Robespierre, from 1793-94 is referred to as the 'Reign of Terror.'

38. What is meant by the term 'Directory'?

The term 'Directory' refers to the executive board made up of five members.

39. What does a broken chain signify?

A broken chain signifies act of becoming free, as chains were used to imprison and exploit slaves.

40. Give the name of any one women's club.

The 'Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women' was the most famous women's club.

41. When did French women get voting rights?

After a long struggle in 1946

42. Which factor contributed to the rise of Napoleon?

The political instability of the Directory contributed to the rise of Napoleon.

43. When was Napoleon defeated at Waterloo?

Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in the year 1815

44. Who authored the book 'The Spirit of the Laws'? What was proposed in this book?

Montesquieu was the author of The Spirit of the Laws. In the book, he proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

45. Which cities became prosperous because of the slave trade?

Port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes prospered due to the flourishing slave trade.

46. When did the Assembly pass a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes?

4 August 1789

47. Who was the president of USA during French revolution?

George Washington became the first president of USA at that time.

48. Arrange the following events of French Revolution in chronological order (what happened next).

- (i) Louis XVI is guillotined.
- (ii) the Oath of the Tennis Court
- (iii) The Bastille falls
- (iv) French Republic is declared.
- (v) The Great Fear

The correct sequence is (ii) - (iii) - (v) - (iv) - (i)

49. When did Louis XVI call for The Estates General? When was it convened last time?

Louis XVI called for The Estates-General on May 5, 1789. It was called after a gap of 175 years since 1614

50. From where Jacobin's club got its name? Who was the leader of Jacobin's club?

It got its name from the former convent of St Jacob in Paris. Maximillian Robespierre was the leader of Jacobins.

51. What was the outcome of Battle of Waterloo? When did this battle occur?

The Battle of Waterloo was fought in 1815 between Napoleon Forces and the allied army of Prussia, UK and Netherlands. In this battle, Napoleon was defeated.

52. What was a Manor?

Manor was an estate consisting of the lord's lands and his mansion.

53. When did the France become a Republic?

The newly elected assembly was called the Convention. On 21st Sep. 1792, it abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What was the system of voting in the Estates General? What changes did the Third Estate want in this system?

Voting in the Estates General had been conducted from the past. According to the principle, each estate had one vote. Members of the Third Estate demanded that voting must to be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote. However, their demand was denied that made them to initiate protests.

2. Describe the incidents that led to the storming of the Bastille.

National Assembly was busy in drafting a constitution at Versailles while the rest of France was disturbed with the agitations and protests. Due to the severe winter there was bad harvest which resulted in the increased prices of bread. Bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies. After spending hours in long queues at the bakery, crowds of angry women stormed into the shops. At the same time, the rumour spread that the king ordered troops to move into Paris. Anticipating the attack by king's troops, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed Bastille on 14th July, 1789.

3. What were 'natural and inalienable rights'?

Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before the law were established as 'natural and inalienable rights', i.e., 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 right.

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

The representatives of the Third Estate assembled at Versailles on 20th June, 1789 and declared themselves a National Assembly. 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 dictatorship.

5. What is the importance of the document 'Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen'?
OR

Why 'Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen' is considered as a revolutionary document in French revolution?

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen is regarded as a revolutionary document because:

- (i) It abolished the privileges and power given to the French feudal classes i.e. First Estate and Second Estate.
- (ii) It provided equal distribution of the burdens of taxation and rights to public property among all citizens.
- (iii) The Declaration emphasized equality before law and freedom of speech and press. Every citizen has right to speak, print and express.

6. What was the important aim of setting up Directory? What was the final outcome of appointing the Directory?

After the fall of the Jacobin government, the two elected legislative Council appointed an executive of five members called Directory. The main objective of the directory was to work as a safeguard against the concentration of power in the hands of one-man as under the Jacobins. 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.

7. Who were allowed to vote for the formation of the National Assembly?

Only men above 25 years of age and those who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourers wage were given the status of active citizens. And they were entitled to vote. The remaining men and women were classified as passive citizens and were not allowed to vote. To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.

8. What was Rousseau's concept about the state?

Rousseau, a thinker and a French philosopher, is regarded as an inspiration behind the French Revolution. He carried the idea of Locke forward, proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives. According to him, the

society creates a Political state for a stable life. If the state failed to abide by the terms of the contract, people have natural and moral rights to overthrow the state authority.

9. How did women suffer in France?

Most of the women had to work for a living. They worked as laundresses or seamstresses sold flowers, fruits and vegetables or were employed as domestic servants. They could not get education or job training. Working women had also to take care of their families, that is cook, fetch water, queue up for bread and look after children. Their wages were also lower than men.

10. What happened after the fall of Robespierre's government?

OR

Write a short note on the Directory.

After the fall of Jacobins, a new Constitution was formed which denied the right to vote to non-propertied men. It provided two elected legislative Councils, who appointed a Directory, an executive body made up of five members. Directory was formed to prevent the concentration of power in a one man executive as under the Jacobins. However, the directors often clashed with the legislative councils and were finally dismissed. With this, political instability emerged in France which gave rise to a military dictator "Napoleon Bonaparte".

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France. (Also in NCERT Textbook)

The outbreak of revolutionary protest in France was a culmination of social, political, economic and intellectual factors:

- (i) Social Causes or Social Conditions: French society was divided into privileged (Clergy and Nobility) and non-privileged sections (Third Estate). Clergy and Nobility were exempt from payment of state taxes. The third estate consisted of the lower and middle classes who bore the burden of taxes. Besides, they did not have any political rights and social status which caused a feeling of resentment in them from privileged sections.
- (ii) Political Causes: Louis XVI, the king of France was an autocratic, inefficient ruler who led a luxurious life with his queen Marie Antoinette. People of France became tired of this system of administration and wanted a change.
- (iii) Economic Causes: The treasury of the king was empty on account of long wars, involvement in the American War of Independence, luxurious living of the king and faulty system of taxation.
- (iv) Intellectual Causes: Philosophers like Rousseau, Voltaire and Montesquieu played a significant role. The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers.

Forced by financial bankruptcy, Louis XVI was compelled to call an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes in 1789. This time, voting method was not accepted by the third estate. They demanded each member should have one vote. This

controversy led to agitation among the people which became the immediate cause of the French Revolution.

2. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the 19th and 20th centuries. (Also in NCERT Textbook)

The legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was as follows:

- (i) Ideas of equality and democratic spread from France to other European countries and feudalism was abolished;
- (ii) Colonial people reworked the idea of freedom from bondage into their movements to create sovereign nation states;
- (iii) It was the first movement to adopt the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity;
- (iv) The declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen gave rights such as right to life, freedom of speech, equality before law, etc.;
- (v) Women were given many rights. They could not be forced to marry against their will, divorce was made legal, schooling was made compulsory and they could train for jobs.

3. What was the impact of the French Revolution in France?

The impact of the French Revolution in France can be summarized as:

- (i) End of Monarchy: It marked the end of absolute monarchy and paved way for a republic government.
- (ii) Laid the foundation of Democratic Principles: It upheld the theory of sovereignty and laid the foundation of the democratic principles i.e. government decisions should be based on the consent of her citizens.
- (iii) Ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity: The slogans of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity became the founding milestones for a democratic nation.
- (iv) Declaration of Rights and Equality: The declaration provided equality among the citizens for all public offices, freedom of speech and expression was granted and freedom from arrest without a proven cause was implemented.
- (v) Abolition of Censorship: Mass media was allowed Freedom of the press was granted.
- (vi) Taxes to be paid by all: Taxes would be borne by all the people irrespective of their status.
- (vii) Religious Freedom: It guaranteed the free exercise of religious worship and abolished the taxes collected by the churches.
- (viii) Reforms and New Initiatives: New initiatives and reforms were carried out in education, administration and judiciary domain.

4. Explain 'Reign of Terror'.

OR

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

The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the 'Reign of Terror' because during this time, Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment. During this period,

- (i) All of those whom he considered being enemies of the Republic (e.g. nobles, clergy, members of other political parties) were arrested. They were arrested and more than 15,000 persons including Queen of France were guillotined;
- (ii) Meat and bread were rationed;

- (iii) Peasants were forced to sell their grains at the prices fixed by the government.
 - (iv) Use of expensive white flour was forbidden and all citizens were forced to eat the equality bread i.e., a loaf made of whole wheat.
 - (v) Churches were shut down and their buildings were converted into barracks or offices.
- Finally, Robespierre was convicted and guillotined in July, 1794 and the Reign of Terror ended with his death.

5. What role did women of France of the third Estate play in French revolution?

Women of the third estate of France played a crucial role in the revolution: During Revolutionary years, women started their own political clubs and newspapers. They set up about sixty women clubs in different cities of France. The most famous among them was the Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women. They also demanded to enjoy the same political rights as men, i.e., right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office. However, the women were disappointed because they were not given same political rights as enjoyed by the men of France.

6. Explain how did the freedom of speech and expression under the revolutionary government in France promote the ideals of Liberty and Equality into everyday practice.

- (i) The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen emphasized that freedom of speech and expression be established as established as 'natural and inalienable' right;
- (ii) The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffeehouses and spread among people through books and newspapers;
- (iii) Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where they travelled rapidly into the countryside;
- (iv) Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed;
- (v) Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of illiterate people to help them grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about.

7. How was slavery abolished in France?

OR

Explain the process of slavery abolition in France.

One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was responsible for the abolition of slavery. An acute shortage of labour in the French Caribbean colonies, Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo, led to a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and America in the 17th century. The National Assembly held long debates and finally, the Convention in 1794 passed laws freeing slaves in the French overseas possessions but it was last for a short period. After ten years, slavery was reintroduced by Napoleon and it was finally abolished in 1848.

8. What was the role of French philosophers and revolutionary thinkers in the French Revolution?

The 18th century witnessed the emergence of revolutionary thinkers such as John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu. They didn't play an active role in the events of

the revolution but their ideas inspired the revolutionary movement. Their revolutionary ideas encouraged people to fight for their rights.

- (i) Voltaire's ideas revolved around individual liberties and he believed that man's destiny is in his own hands;
- (ii) John Locke criticised the divine and absolute rights of the rulers;
- (iii) Rousseau put forward the idea of formation of a government based on a social contract between people and their representatives. Men had the right to change their government, if they were not satisfied with it;
- (iv) Montesquieu believed that all powers should not be concentrated in one person's hand. They should be divided between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

The ideas of these philosophers were discussed and debated in salons and coffee houses and spread among people through books and newspapers. This founded the way to the revolution of 1789.

9. What was The Great Fear of French revolution?

After the storming of the Bastille, the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting a constitution, the rest of France was disturbed with the agitations and protests.

- (i) In the countryside rumours spread from village to village that the royalists of the Manor had hired bands of brigands who were on their way to destroy the ripe crops;
- (ii) Rumours also spread that King's men were planning to kill National assembly representatives;
- (iii) Peasants feared of killing seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked chateaux in several districts. They looted hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues.
- (iv) A large number of nobles fled from their homes, many of them migrated to neighbouring countries.

This turmoil at that time is termed as The Great Fear.

10. What is the significance of The Tennis Court Oath' in the French Revolution?

The representatives of the third estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. They assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles on 20th June, 1789. They declared themselves as a National Assembly and decided not to disperse until they had drafted a constitution for France which would curtail the power of the monarch. Mirabeau and Abb'e Sieye's were the prominent leaders of National Assembly while the National Assembly was busy at Versailles, drafting a constitution. Bastille was stormed and peasants revolt spread in the countryside.

11. How was slave trade started? When and how was it abolished?

OR

Prepare a short note on 'Slave Trade'.

There was a shortage of labour at the plantation. So, Europeans solved this problem by a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and America. Slave trade began in the 17th century when French merchants sailed to the African coast to buy slaves from their local chieftains. The slaves were packed in the ships for a three month voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. There, they were sold to plantation owners. Exploitation of slave labour made it possible to meet the growing demand in European markets for sugar, indigo and

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coffee. In France, the National Assembly held long discussions to provide rights to all the people living in France but it did not pass any law. Ultimately, in 1794 the 'Convention' passed a law to free all the slaves in the French colonies but this was a short-term measure as later, Napoleon Bonaparte reintroduced slavery.

12. How did the French people ultimately get the right to vote for all citizens?

In the summer of 1792, the Jacobins planned an insurrection of a large number of Parisians who were angered by the short supply and high prices of food. On the morning of August 10, they stormed the palace of Tuileries, massacred the king's guards and held the king hostage for several hours. Later the Assembly voted to imprison the royal family. Elections were held and from then, all men of 21 years and above regardless of wealth, got the right to vote.