

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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1. Louis XVI belonged to which dynasty? When did the French Revolution begin?

Ans. Louis XVI belonged to Bourbon dynasty of Kings in France.

The French revolution began on 5 May 1789.

2. Name the taxes collected by the Clergy and Nobility.

Ans. The taxes collected by Clergy and Nobility are:

- Tithes - The Church too extracted its share of taxes ^{from} the peasants and then all members of third estate had to pay taxes to the state.

- Taille - These include a direct tax, called taille, and a number of indirect taxes which were levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco.

3. When did the French Revolution begin?

Ans. On '5 May 1789', French Revolution began.

4. Why was Bastille hated by all?

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

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5. What was the Subsistence crisis in France?
Mention its causes.

Ans. → A subsistence crisis in a place is caused by economic factors (generally high food crisis), which in turn may be caused either natural or man-made factors, which threatens the food supplies and the survival of prospects of large numbers of people.

→ Subsistence Crisis in France:- Empty treasury was the subsistence crisis in France. Due to frequent wars with British and giving financial support to America, France became empty treasury.

→ The causes of Subsistence crisis were:-

- The population of France increased from 1715-1789 (23 million to 28 million).
- It increased the demand of food grains.
- As a result of the bad harvest the prices of bread also increased.
- But the labourers in the workshops had got very less and fixed wages.
- The gap between the rich and poor had increased.
- All these factors caused subsistence crises in France.

6. What was proposed by Montesquieu in the spirit of laws?

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

7. How was the French society in the late 18th century divided into?

Ans. It was divided as:-

- 1st estate - clergy
- 2nd estate - nobility
- 3rd estate -
 - big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers etc.
 - peasants and artisans
 - small peasants, landless labour, servants

8. What is the name of the national anthem of France? Who composed it?

Ans. Name of the National Anthem of France is 'Marseillaise'. It was composed by 'Roch de l'Isle'.

9. When was slavery abolished in French colonies?

Ans. Slavery was abolished in '1848' in French colonies.

10. When was the monarchy abolished and France declared a republic?

Ans. On '21 September 1792', monarchy was abolished and France declared a republic.

11. What was the immediate cause of the French Revolution?

Ans. The immediate cause of the French Revolution was that Louis XVI had signed the constitution he entered into secret negotiations with the King Prussia.

12. The fall of Bastille marked the beginning of French Revolution. Give a brief account of that important event.

Ans. → When a rumour spread that the King would soon order the army to open fire upon the citizens, a group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille.
→ During the attack, the commander of the Bastille was killed and all prisoners were

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released, through there ^{were} only seven of them.
→ Let the Bastille was ~~was~~ hated by all, because it stood for the despotic power of the king. The fortress was demolished and its stone fragments were sold in the markets to all those who wished to keep a souvenir of its destruction.

13. How did Napoleon rise to fame and power?

- Ans: → The fall of 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.
- These then appointed a Directory, an executive made up of five members because this was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in one man executive as under the Jacobins.
- The Directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who then sought to dismiss them.
- The political instability of the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

14. How did France become a constitutional monarchy?
Why were women disappointed by the constitution of 1791?

Ans. 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 were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated. As a result, the government acquired assets worth at least 2 billion livres. So, this is how France became a constitutional monarchy.

Women were disappointed by the Constitution of 1791 because it reduced them to passive citizens means they will not have the right to vote.

15. When and why did Louis XVI recognise the National Assembly? Why 4th August 1789 significant?

Ans. → In 1789, when peasants of several districts attacked chateaux, a large number of nobles fled from their homes, and many of them migrating to neighbouring countries.

→ At that time Louis XVI lost the support from the nobles and faced the power of revolving people.

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→ Finally Louis XVI gave recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now on be checked by a constitution.

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