

# The French Revolution

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

> Louis XVI belonged to the Bourbon dynasty.

> The French Revolution had begun on 5th May 1789.

2) Name the taxes collected by the clergy and Nobility.

> The taxes collected were :-

\* Tithe (Clergy)

\* Taille (Nobility)

3) When did the French Revolution begin?

The French Revolution had begun on 5th May 1789.

4) Why was the Bastille hated by all?

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

5) What was the subsistence crisis in France? Mention its causes?

The extreme situation in France, where the basic means of livelihood was endangered was known as subsistence crisis.

The causes were :-

- > The population of France increased from 1715 to 1789 (23 million to 28 million)
- > It increased the demand of food grains.
- > As a result of the bad harvest the prices of the bread also increased.
- > But the labourers in the workshops got very less & fixed wages.
- > Hence, subsistence crisis occurred in France.

Q) What was proposed by Montesquieu in the spirit of laws?

The idea of the spirit of laws was to propose a division of powers within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

Q) How was the French society in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century divided into?

The French society in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was divided into :-

- ★ 1st estate : Clergy
- ★ 2nd estate : Nobility.
- ★ 3rd estate : > Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers etc.  
> Peasants & artisans

- > Small peasants, landless labourers, serfants.
- 8) What is the name of the national anthem of France? who composed it?
- > The National Anthem of France is Marseillaise.
- > It was composed by the poet Roget de L'Isle.
- 9) When was slavery abolished in the French colonies?  
In 1848 slavery was abolished in the French colonies.
- 10) When was the monarchy abolished by and France declared a republic?  
On 21st September 1792 monarchy was abolished & France declared a Republic.
- 11) What was the immediate cause of the French Revolution?  
The immediate cause was: -  
Louis XVI had entered into secret negotiations with the king of Prussia.

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

- > On the morning of 14 July 1789, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm.
- > Rumours spread that the King would soon order the army to fire upon the citizens.
- > A group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city & stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille.
- > In the armed fight that followed, the commander of the Bastille was killed & the 7 prisoners were released.
- > The fortress was demolished.
- > It marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

13) How did Napoleon rise to fame & power?

- > The fall of the 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. This was

meant for as a safe guard against the concentration of power in a one man executive as under the Jacobins

- > The directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who they sought to dismiss them.
- > The political instability of the Director paved the way for the rise of military dictators, Napoleon Bonaparte.

Q) How did France become a constitutional monarchy - why were women disappointed by the constitution of 1791?

- > France became a constitutional monarchy in 1791.
- > The National Assembly completed the draft of the constitution in 1791.
- > Its main motto was to limit the powers of the monarch.
- > These powers instead of being concentrated in hands of one person, were now separated & assigned to different institutions :- the legislative, the executive, the judiciary.
- > This made France a constitutional monarchy.

15) When & why did Louis XVI recognise the National Assembly? Why is 4th August 1789 significant?

> On 4th August 1789 facing with powers of his revolting subjects; Louis XVI finally recognise the National Assembly & accepted the principle that his powers would now on be checked by a constitution.

- > 4th August in 1789 is significant because :-
- ★ On the night of 4th August 1789, the assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations & taxes.
  - ★ Members of the clergy too were forced to give up their privileges.
  - ★ Tithes were abolished & lands owned by the church were confiscated.