

H.w
17/05/21.

Chapter - 1

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

Ans → Louis XVI belonged to Bourbon dynasty. The French Revolution began on 5 May, 1789.

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

Ans → Tax collected by clergy was called tithes and tax collected by Nobility was called taille.

3. When did the French Revolution begin?

Ans → The French Revolution began in the year 1789.

4. Why was the Bastille hated by all?

Ans → The 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.

Ans → Subsistence crisis is an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered. In France, the population rose from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to increase in demand for food grains. The causes of subsistence crisis in France were:

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

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

Ans → In The spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the govt. between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

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

Ans → The French society in the late 18th century was divided into 3 estates. The first estate consisted of the clergy people, the second estate consisted of the nobles and the third estate consisted of the common people most of whom were peasants.

- The members of the first and second estates were exempted from paying any taxes to the king. The nobility and the clergy enjoyed many privileges in French society. The nobles extracted feudal dues from the peasants.
- The church also collected its share of taxes called tithes from the peasants. The members of the third estate had to pay direct tax to the state known as taille.

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

Ans → The national anthem of France was Marseillaise. It was composed by the poet Roget de l'Isle.

9. When was the slavery abolished in the French colonies?

Ans → In 1848, the slavery was abolished in the French colonies.

10. When was the Monarchy abolished and France declared a Republic?

Ans → On 21 September 1792, Monarchy was abolished and France was declared as Republic.

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

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

12. The fall of Bastille marked the beginning of the 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 the prisoners were released, though there were only seven of them.

- Yet the Bastille 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 the Jacobin govt. 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 as a safeguard against the concentration of power in a one-man executive 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.

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

Ans → France became a constitutional monarchy in 1791.

- The National Assembly completed the

drafting of the constitution in 1791.

- Its main object was to limit the powers of the monarch.
- These powers instead of being 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.

Women were disappointed by the constitution of 1791 because it reduced them to passive citizens, i.e. they did not have any right to vote. They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office.

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

Ans. → On 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.
- 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.

On 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes. For this reason, 4th August, 1789 is significant.