



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS: IX	DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCE	SUB: HISTORY
Chapter-1 QB.NO.1	TOPIC: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION	Year: 2024-25

1.	<p>What were the causes of an empty treasury at the time of the accession of Louis XVI? OR Explain briefly the economic causes for the outbreak of the French Revolution.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.• A huge amount of money was spent on the maintenance of an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles.• France had helped the Thirteen American colonies in the war against Britain to gain their independence. It increased the debt and French government was forced to spend a large sum of money on interest payments alone.• To meet the regular expenses i.e. army, the court, government offices, universities the state was forced to increase taxes.
2.	<p>“There were too many inequalities in the French society” Justify the Statement. OR How was the society of estates in France organized?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French Society was divided into three Estates. The First Estate comprised of clergy, the Second Estate comprised of nobility and the Third Estate comprised of businessmen, traders, merchants, artisans, peasants and servants.• Peasants made up about 90 per cent of the population. However, only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated. About 60 per cent of the land was owned by nobles, the Church and other richer members of the third estate.• The members of the first two estates i.e. the clergy and the nobility enjoyed certain privileges by birth, the most important was the exemption from paying taxes to the State.• Feudal dues were extracted by the nobles from the peasants. The church too extracted its share taxes called tithes, from the peasants.• All members of the Third Estate including the peasants to pay taxes to the state. Thus, the burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the Third Estate alone creating heavy discontentment.
3.	<p>What was Subsistence Crisis? Why did it happen in France during the Old Regime?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The population of France rose from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to increase in the demand for food grains.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production of food grains could not keep pace with the demand and the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly. • The wages also did not keep pace with the rise in prices. The gap between the rich and the poor widened. This led to the subsistence crisis.
4.	<p>“Philosophers played an important role in enlightening the French people during revolution”. Justify.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideas envisaging a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all were put forward by the philosophers. • In his Two Treatises of Government, John Locke criticized the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch. • Jean Jacques Rousseau proposed a form of government based on a Social Contract between people and their representatives. • In The Spirit of Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. • The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and among people through newspapers and books.
5.	<p>“France became constitutional monarchy”. Explain.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the features of the Constitution of France drafted in 1791.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Assembly completed the draft of the constitution in 1791. Its main object was to limit the powers of the monarch. • Instead of being concentrated in the hands of one person, powers were now separated and assigned to different institutions - the legislature, executive and judiciary. This made France a Constitutional Monarchy. • The Constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws to the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. • Not all citizens had the right to vote. Only men of 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least three days of a laborer’s wage. They were called active citizens. • The remaining men and all women were called passive citizens. • 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,
6.	<p>“The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the Reign of Terror”. Why?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as the Reign of Terror. • Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment. All those whom he saw as being enemies of the republic – ex-nobles and clergy, members of other political

	<p>parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the court found them guilty, they were guillotined.
7.	<p>Explain the reforms of Maximillian Robespierre.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the reforms introduce by the Jacobin Government.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robespierre’s government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices. • Meat and bread were rationed. • Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government. • The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden. All citizens were required to eat plain bread (equality bread), a loaf made of whole wheat. • Equality was also sought to be practiced through forms of speech and address. • Instead of the traditional Monsieur (Sir) and the Madame (Madam) all French men and women were henceforth Citoyen and Citoyenne (citizen). • Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.
8.	<p>What do you mean by Directory? Why was it removed from France?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The directory was a five-member committee which governed France when the political power was passed into the hands of the wealthier middle class. • It was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in the hands of one man executive as under the Jacobins. • The Directors often clashed with the legislative councils who in turn sought to dismiss them. This led to political instability of Directory in France. It paved the way for the rise of a military dictator called Napoleon Bonaparte.
9.	<p>Describe the condition of women in France before the Revolution.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most women of the third estates worked as seamstresses and laundresses, sold flowers, fruits & vegetables or worked as domestic helps in the houses of the rich people. • Most women did not have the access to education or job training. • Only daughters of rich or middle class could study at s convent, after which their families arranged marriage for them. • Working women had to take care of their families that were cooking, fetch water, and queue up for bread and look after their children. • Their wages were lower than those of men.
10.	<p>State the laws revolutionary government had introduce to improve the lives of women in France.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The government took the following steps to improve their conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State schools were established.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schooling was made compulsory for all girls. • They could not be forced to marry against their will. • Marriage was made into a contract entered freely and registered under Civil Law. • Divorce was made legal, and could be applied for both by women and men. • Women were allowed to have training for jobs.
11.	<p>How would you explain the rise of Napoleon as an Emperor in France?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighboring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms. • Napoleon saw his role as a modernizer of Europe. • He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system. • Initially, many saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people. But soon the Napoleonic armies came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.
12.	<p>Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?</p> <p>Ans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wealthy class of the third estate which came to be known as the new middle class of France benefited the most from the revolution. This group comprised of big businessmen, lawyers, teachers. • With the abolition of feudal system, the clergy and the nobility were forced to give up their privileges. Their executive powers were also taken away from them. • The poorer sections of the society, i.e. small peasants, landless laborer, servants, daily wage earners would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution. Women also would have been highly discontented.
13.	<p>Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These ideas became an umpiring force for the political movements in the world in the 19th and 20th centuries. • The ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity spread from France to the rest of Europe, where feudal system was finally abolished. • Colonised people reworked on the idea of freedom from bondage into their movements to Create a sovereign nation-state. • The idea of Nationalism that emerged after the French Revolution started becoming mass movements all over the world. Now people began to question the absolute power.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the French Revolution would be seen in India too. Tipu Sultan and Raja Rammohan Roy got deeply influenced by the ideas of the revolution. In the end, we can say that after the French Revolution people all over the world became aware of their rights.
<p>15.</p>	<p>Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.</p> <p>Ans: Some of the democratic rights which we enjoy today can be traced to the French Revolution are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to equality including equality before the law, the prohibition of discrimination, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment. • Right to freedom of speech and expression including the right to practice any profession or occupation. • Right against exploitation. • Right to life. • Right to vote.
<p>16.</p>	<p>Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The message of universal rights was definitely beset with contradictions. Many ideals of the “Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen” were not at all clear. They had dubious meanings. • The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen laid stress on equality but large section of the society was denied to it. The right to vote were given only to the propertied men. • Women were still regarded as passive citizens. They did not have any political rights such as right to vote and hold political offices like men. • France continued to hold and expand colonies. Thus, its image as a liberator could not last for a long time. • Slavery existed in France until the first half of the 19th century.