



**पुनना**

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
AFFILIATED TO CBSE BOARD**

**Sample Book :  
Class 9 HISTORY**

**Chapter 1 : The French Revolution**

**Short Question Answers (2 marks)**

**Q.1 When did Louis XVI become the king of France and he belonged to which dynasty?**

Ans. In 1774 Louis XVI became the king of France and he belonged to the Bourbon dynasty.

**Q 2. Who belonged to the third stage and which state of France society paid all taxes?**

Ans. The clergy and the nobility constituted the privileged estates and the third state comprised all people of France except the clergy and the nobility.

**Q.3 What were the legacies of the French revolution?**

Ans. Ideas of Liberty, Equality and fraternity were the legacies of the French revolution.

**Q.4 What is the subsistence crisis?**

Ans. An extreme situation in which the basic means of livelihood are endangered is known as the subsistence crisis.

**Q.5 Name the three states into which French society was divided before the revolution?**

Ans. The first estate clergy  
the second estate nobility  
the third estate peasants and common people.

**Q.6 What was tithes?**

Ans. It was a tax levied by the church comprising one tenth of the agriculture produce.

**Q.7 Name any four French philosophers who inspired the French people to revolt?**

Ans. 1- Jean Jacques Rousseau  
2- Montesquieu  
3- Voltaire  
4 - Maximilian Robespierre

### **Q.8 Why was Bastille hated by the French people?**

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

### **Short Question Answer (3 marks)**

#### **Question 1. Describe the incident which took place in the morning of 14th July, 1789 in France.**

Ans. The following events took place in the morning of 14th July, 1789 in France

(1) In the morning of 14th July, 1789 the king ordered his troops to move into the city. There was a rumour that he ordered his army to open fire upon the citizens.

(ii) 7000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a people's militia.

(iii) Agitated crowd broke into a number of government building in search of arms.

(iv) A group of several hundred people stormed the fortress prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition.

(v) The crowd destroyed the Bastille, the commander of the Bastille was killed and the prisoners released.

#### **Question 2. Which three causes led to the 'subsistence crisis' in France during the Old Regime?**

Ans. 'Subsistence crisis' can be defined as an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered.

During the Old Regime, France faced the 'subsistence crisis' because

(i) The population of France had increased from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789.

The growing population led to a rapid increase in the demand for foodgrains. But the production of grains could not keep pace with the demand.

(ii) Most workers got fixed wages which did not keep pace with the rising prices of objects of daily use. So the gap between the poor and rich increased.

(iii) Things became worse when drought or hail reduced the harvest, causing shortages.

#### **Question 3. How did France become a constitutional monarchy?**

Ans. In 1791, the National Assembly completed the draft of the Constitution. Its main object was to limit the powers of the monarch.

The powers, instead of being concentrated in the hands of the monarch, were now separated and divided between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary

The Constitution also declared that it was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights. In this way, France became a constitutional monarchy.

#### **Question 4. What was the condition of women in France before the revolution?**

Ans. The condition/role of the women in France before the revolution is stated in the points below

(i) All women were classified as passive citizens. They did not have voting powers.

(ii) They worked as seamstresses or laundresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables or worked as domestic servants.

- (iii) Their wages were lower than those of men.
- (iv) They looked after their children, did the cooking, fetched water and queued up for bread.
- (v) Most women did not have access to education or job training. Only daughters of wealthy parents could study at a convent, after which they were married off.

**Question 5. Who were the Jacobins? Write about it in three points.**

Ans. The following three points state who were the Jacobins

- (i) The Jacobins or the Society of the Friends of the Constitution was the most famous and influential club prior to the French Revolution. The Jacobin club got its name from the former convent of St Jacob in Paris.
- (ii) It became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.
- (iii) The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous section of society which included small shopkeepers, artisans like shoe-makers, pastry cooks, watch-makers, printers, servants, daily-wage workers etc. Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre.

**Question 6. Write a short note on Napoleon Bonaparte.**

Ans. Napoleon Bonaparte was a great French General who won many battles for France and raised his nation's prestige. In 1804, he crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries and became a terror for all European monarchs. He introduced many modern laws like the protection of private property, a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system and others. Initially, many saw him as a liberator who would bring freedom to the people. However, later on, he was looked upon by the conquered European countries as an invader. Finally, in 1815, Napoleon was defeated by the European allies at Waterloo.

**Question 7. What do you understand by the term 'Reign of Terror'?**

Ans. The period from September 1793 to July 1794 is referred to as the 'Reign of Terror'. During this period, Robespierre, who ruled France at that time, followed a policy of severe control and punishment and terrorised people with his harsh measures. All those whom he regarded as 'enemies' of the republic e.g. nobles, clergy or members of his or other political parties, were arrested and tried by a revolutionary tribunal. If found guilty, they were guillotined. More than 15000 persons were guillotined during this period. The 'Reign of Terror' became intolerable and people resented Robespierre and his followers. Finally, Robespierre was convicted and guillotined in July 1794 and the 'Reign of Terror' ended with his death.

**Question 8. Describe the divisions in French society before the French Revolution.**

Ans. The French society was divided into three estates

- (1) First estate It comprised of the clergy which was a group of persons invested with special functions in the church. They were exempted from paying taxes to the state.
- (ii) Second estate This estate comprised of nobility which were the aristocrats and landlords. They were considered above law and exempted from paying taxes.

(iii) **Third estate** This comprised the big businessmen, merchants, peasants, artisans, city workers and the middle class people like teachers, doctors, lawyers, writers, landless labour, servants etc. All such people had no political rights.

They had to pay many kinds of taxes like **tithes** to church by peasants and a direct tax, i.e. **taille** and also a number of indirect taxes were given by all members of the third estate.

### **Long Question answers (5 marks)**

#### **Q.1 State any five causes for the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI.**

Ans. In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France. He found an empty treasury. The causes for it were

- (1) Long years of wars had drained the financial resources of France. The condition was made worse when under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from Britain.
- (2) The king's court at the immense palace of Versailles required huge amount of money for its maintenance.
- (3) Taxes were levied only on the third estate and the first and second estates, who were rich, were exempted from paying taxes.
- (4) The war with Britain added more than a billion livres to a debt that had already risen to more than billion livres.
- (5) Lenders who had given the state credit, began to charge 10% interest on the existing loans.

#### **Q. 2 Explain the process of slavery abolition in France.**

Ans. One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin period was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies. The colonies in the Caribbean-Martinique, Guadeloupe and San

Domingo - were important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee. But when the shortage of labour on the plantation was seen, it encouraged the triangular slave trading between Europe, Africa and the Americas in seventeenth century.

French merchants bought the slaves from local chieftains from ports like Nantes or Bordeaux of African coast. Then, they were sold to plantation owners. However, slavery was not criticised largely throughout the eighteenth century.

The National Assembly held long debates about the rights of man but fearing opposition from businessmen it did not pass any laws to abolish slave trade. In 1794, the Convention Legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions but it lasted for a short term. After ten years, slavery was reintroduced by Napoleon. It was finally abolished in 1848 in French colonies.

#### **Q.3 What changes did people witness in everyday life after the revolution of 1789 in France?**

Ans. The people of France observed following changes after the revolution of 1789

- (1) The revolutionary ideas of liberty and equality changed the clothes people wore, the language they spoke and the books they read.

(2) Censorship was abolished, flooding the country with newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures.

(3) Freedom of the press implied that opposing views of events could be expressed. Each side tried to convince the other through the print medium.

(4) Act flourished in the form of plays, songs and festive processions attracted large crowds of people, as the largely uneducated populace were able to identify with the new ideas.

(5) Slavery was abolished. Thus, the everyday life of the French people witnessed major changes after the revolution.

#### **Q.4 What changes were seen in the regime of Robespierre's government?**

Ans. The following changes were seen in the regime of Robespierre's government

(1) Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices. Meat and bread were rationed.

(2) Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at fixed prices by the government

(3) The use of expensive white flour was forbidden and all citizens were forced to eat the equality bread, i.e. a loaf made of wholewheat.

(4) Instead of the traditional Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) all French men and women were called as Citoyen and Citoyenne (citizen).

(5) Churches were also shut down and their buildings were converted into barracks or offices.

