

TEACHERS FORUM®



# QUESTION BANK

(solved)

**Class IX**

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**SUBJECT EXPERTS**

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# HISTORY

## 1

# THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(points have to be explained if necessary)

1. Explain any three causes of the French Revolution. **(2016)**

**Ans.** (1) Political causes. (2) Economic causes.  
(3) Social causes (4) Philosophical causes  
(5) Subsistence crisis. (6) Immediate causes.

2. Describe the incident which took place in the morning of 14 July 1789 in France.

**Ans.** (1) Some 700 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a peoples militia. **(2016)**

(2) They broke into a number of government building in search of arms.

(3) Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress prison, the Bastille.

(4) The commander of the Bastille was killed and the prisoners released.

(5) The fortress was demolished and its stone fragments sold in the markets to all those who wished to keep a souvenir of its destruction.

3. Explain the immediate causes of the outbreak of the revolt in France in 1789. **(2016)**

**Ans.** (a) Empty exchequer.

(b) Loans to be re paid.

(c) Taxes had to be increased.

(d) Defective tax policy not acceptable to the 3rd estate.

(e) In the countryside a severe winter had meant a bad harvest, the price of bread rose. Bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies which angered the people.

4. Explain any five circumstances that helped the middle class in bringing social and economic changes in France in the 18th century. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Circumstances that helped the middle class in bringing social and economic changes in France in 18th century:

● American war of Independence

● Spread of new philosophy

● Expansion of trade

- The belief of the lawyers and administration that no group in society should be privileged by birth
- Rise of new ideas that society should be based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.

5. Give Reasons as to why was the National assembly formed by the people of the Third Estate ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** (a) On 5 may 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposal for new taxes.

(b) The first and second estates sent 300 representatives each. While 600 members of the third estate.

(c) Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote.

(d) But members of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote.

(e) King rejected the proposal, members of the Third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

(f) On 20 June in the tennis Court of Versailles they declared themselves a National Assembly to draft the constitution and limit the powers of the estate.

6. Evaluate the importance of the following years in concern with French Revolution.

1774, 1789, 1791, 1804,1815 **(2016)**

**Ans.** 1774 - Louis XVI ascended the throne of France. He believed in the Divine Right Theory of Kings. He had no respect for freedom of liberty, because of his empty treasure he began to impose heavy taxes which were disliked even by his own people.

1789 - French revolution started and storming of Bastille. Estate Generals were called together by Louis XVI to pass proposals for new taxes.

1791 - The Third Estate, which assumed the name of the National Assembly framed a new constitution for France in 1791. Abolished the rights of the privileged classes, and declaration of the rights of Man and the citizen.

1804 - Napoleon became the Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries. He conquered Europe and saw his role as a moderniser of Europe.

1815 - Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo. Many of his measures, that carried the revolutionary ideas of Liberty and Modern Laws to other parts of Europe, had an impact on people long after Napoleon had left.

7. Describe the rise of napoleon? **(2016)**

**Ans.** The rise of napoleon:

(i) After the formation of France as republic in 1792, the ruler Robespierre gave more privileges to the wealthier section of the society.

## The French Revolution

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- (ii) Robespierre was an autocrat and his act led to reign of terrors for many years.
- (iii) After his rule came to an end, a directory was formed so as to avoid concentration of power in one individual's hand. But members of directory fought amongst themselves which led to political instability.
- (iv) In this period, Napoleon Bonaparte gained the control of reign as director.
- (v) In 1805, he crowned himself as the emperor of France.
- (vi) He set out to conquer the neighboring European cities.
- (vii) He created kingdoms where he placed members of his family.
- (viii) Soon the Napoleonic armies came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force

8. What does subsistence crisis mean? What led to subsistence crisis in France? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Subsistence crisis is an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered.

**Causes:**

- (i) Rise in population.                      (ii) Increase in the demand of food grains.
- (iii) Prices of bread rose rapidly. (iv) Wages could not keep pace with rising prices.
- (v) Gap between rich and poor widened.
- (vi) Draught or hail reduced the harvest.

9. What were the causes for the empty treasury of France under Louis XIV? Assess any three causes? **(2016)**

**Ans.** (i) Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.

(ii) The war added more than a billion lives to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 Billion.

(iii) Lenders who gave the credit began to charge ten percent interest on loans.

10. 'The eighteenth century France witnessed the emergence of the middle class'. Who were they and what were their ideas ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** • Middle class was a social group that had earned their wealth through overseas trade and manufacture of goods.

• It included professionals as lawyers or administrative officials.

They were educated and believed that :

(i) no group in the society should be privileged by birth.

(ii) person's social position must depend on his merit.

(iii) a society should be based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.

(iv) Locke, Rousseau and Montesquieu were its main thinkers.

11. What was the impact of French Revolution on the world ? Name two Indians who were very much influenced by the revolutionary France. **(2015),(2016)**

**Ans. • Impact of French revolution on the world.**

(i) The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy.

(ii) The ideas spread from France to Europe. Here feudal systems were abolished.

(iii) Colonised people started movements to create a sovereign nation state.

• Tipu Sultan and Raja Ram Mohan Roy were the Indians who were influenced by the ideas of French revolution.

12. How did Robespierre government ensure equality in the French Society ? Explain any five measures. **(2016)**

**Ans.** To ensure equality in the society, Robespierre took the following measures :

(i) Issued laws placing maximum ceiling on wages and prices.

(ii) Meat and bread were rationed.

(iii) Peasants were forced to sell grains at fixed prices.

(iv) Use of white flour was forbidden.

(v) All were required to eat plain bread and a loaf of whole wheat.

(vi) Instead of Monsieur and Madame all were citizen and citizenne.

(vii) Churches were shut down and buildings were converted into barracks or offices.

13. How did the abolition of censorship change lives of people in France after the French revolution ? Explain. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Abolition of censorship changed the lives of people in France.

(i) Now the declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression as natural right.

(ii) News papers, books, pamphlets flooded the town and country side.

(iii) All events were described and discussed.

(iv) Freedom of press meant opposing views could be expressed.

(v) Plays, songs and festive processions attracted people.

(vi) People wrote about ideas of justice and liberty.

14. Who was the leader of the Jacobin club ? State any four laws introduced by him.

**Ans.** (i) Maximilian Robespierre **(2015)**

(ii) Laws introduced by him were :

## The French Revolution

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- Meat and bread were rationed
- Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by government.
- The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden
- Equality was also sought to be practiced through forms of speech and address.

15. Explain the process of slavery abolition in France (2015)

**Ans.** (i) National Assembly held long debates to abolish slavery but did not pass any law, fearing opposition of businessmen whose income depended on slave trade.

(ii) It was finally the convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves

(iii) But it turned out to be a short term measure because ten years later, Napoleon reintroduced slavery

(iv) Plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave Africans in pursuit of their economic interests.

(v) It was finally abolished in French colony in 1848.

16. Who constituted the middle class in the French Society in the 18th century ? Explain the conditions that helped them in bringing change in social and economic order in France ? (2015)

**Ans.** • The prosperous social groups within the third estate like traders, merchants, manufacturers and professionals were termed as middle class.

• **Circumstances :**

(i) Their prosperity and access to education and new ideas.

(ii) Having enough means and programmes to bring about a change.

(iii) The belief that no social group should be privileged by birth.

(iv) Ideas of philosophers helped in envisaging a society based on freedom and equality.

17. What was Jacobin club ? Who were its members ? How did Jacobins contribute to carry the French Revolution further ? (2015)

**Ans.** • It was a political club formed to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.

• Its members mainly belonged to the less prosperous section of society.

• Their contribution :

(i) In 1792 they planned an insurrection of people of Paris.

(ii) They stormed the palace of the Tuileries and held the king hostage for several hours.



(iii) Elections were held, men of 21 years above, regardless of wealth, got the right to vote.

(iv) Monarchy was abolished.

18. Trace the events which led to the fall of Bastille. (2015)

**Ans.** As the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting a constitution, the rest of France seethed with turmoil -severe winter led to bad harvest due to which price of bread rose. Crowd of angry women, after spending many hours in long queues at the bakery attacked the shops.

At the same time King ordered troops to move into Paris. On 14<sup>th</sup> July, agitated crowd stormed & destroyed the Bastille Prison. All the captives were set free.

It destroyed the autocracy of King and people emerged victorious.

19. Describe the condition of women during French revolution and what did they do to voice their interests. (2015)

**Ans.** (i) Women were active participants to bring change in the French Society

(ii) Most women of the third estate had to work for a living

(iii) Most women did not have access to education or job training

(iv) Women started their own political clubs and newspapers

(v) They demanded right to vote, to be selected to the Assembly and to hold political office.

20. Describe any five laws introduced in France by revolutionary government to improve the lives of women. (2015)

**Ans. Laws to Improve the lives of women:**

(i) Creation of state schools.

(ii) Schooling was made compulsory for all girls.

(iii) Their father could not force them into marriage against their will

(iv) Divorce was made legal

(v) Women could now be trained for Jobs

21. Explain any five features of the constitution of 1791, framed by the National Assembly in France. (2015)

**Ans. Features of the constitution of 1791.**

(i) It declared France a constitutional monarchy.

(ii) Powers of the king separated and assigned to the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

(iii) Laws to be made by the National Assembly.

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- (iv) Only men above 25 years of age, who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of labourer's wage, were entitled to vote.
- (v) Many rights were given to the people.
- (vi) To qualify as an elector and as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to highest bracket of taxpayers.

22. Evaluate the role of women in France before the revolution. **(2015)**

**Ans. Status of women in France :**

- (i) Most women of the third estate had to work for living.
- (ii) They worked as seamstresses, sold flowers or were employed as domestic servants.
- (iii) They did not have access to education or job training.
- (iv) Working women have to take care for their families also.
- (v) Their wages were lower than men.
- (vi) Women started their own political clubs and newspapers.
- (vii) They demanded same political rights as men
- (viii) Revolutionary government introduced some laws to improve their lives.

23. Who were entitled to vote in France as per the constitution of 1791, framed by the National Assembly ? State any three rights given to the people by this constitution.

**Ans.** • Only men above 25 years of age, who paid taxes equal to atleast 3 days of a labourer's wage were entitled to vote in France. **(2015)**

• Other rights

- (i) Right to life
- (ii) Freedom of speech
- (iii) Freedom of opinion
- (iv) Equality before law

24. Analyse the impact of the French Revolution over Europe and other parts of the world.

**Ans. Impact of the French Revolution** **(2014)**

- (i) Spread of ideas of liberty and democratic rights
- (ii) The people in colonies were inspired during their movement for independence
- (iii) Individuals and leaders responded to the ideas coming from France  
eg. Tipu Sultan and Raja Ram Mohan Roy in India.
- (iv) Women's movement for voting rights and equal wages continued through the next two hundred years.
- (v) Their fight for vote was carried out through international suffrage movement.
- (vi) Slavery was abolished in the French colonies.

25. Describe the system of estates in which French society was organised in the eighteenth century. What was the condition of peasants in this system ? (2014)

**Ans. The system of estates in the French Society :**

(i) Society was divided into three estates, the first estate consist of clergy, the second estate consist of nobility and rest of the people in the third estate.

(ii) Nobility and clergy enjoyed feudal privileges by birth.

(iii) The first two estates were exempted from paying taxes. The burdon of financing activities was borne by the third estate only.

**• Condition of peasants**

(i) Feudal dues were extracted from them.

(ii) They also render services to their lords.

(iii) They have to pay various taxes.

26. Why were women disappointed by the Constitution of 1791 in France ? What laws did the revolutionary government introduce to improve the lives of women ? (2014)

**Ans.** • Women were reduced to passive citizens and denied the right to vote.

**Laws :**

- Schooling became compulsory
- Marriage was made into a contract
- Divorce legalised
- Women could train for jobs or run small business.

27. What was the role of Jacobins during the French Revolution ? What were they known as ? (2014)

**Ans. Role of Jacobins**

- They planned insurrection of the people of Paris who were angry due to food shortage & high prices
- Demand that women should enjoy equal rights as men
- Helped to produce laws, that improved the lives of women
- They were known as 'Sans – Culottes'

28. Describe any five major events that transformed France from Monarchy to a Republic.

**Ans. Events :** (2014)

- (i) Treason by the king, Louis XVI      (ii) War against Prussia and Austria  
(iii) Formation of Jacobin club      (iv) Insurrection by Jacobins  
(v) Holding of elections by convention

29. Explain any five economic conditions of France that led to revolution. (2014)

**Ans. Economic condition of France**

- Constant wars
- Cost of maintaining extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles
- Extension of help to American countries
- Increase in debt by war
- Rise in rate of interest by 10%

30. Explain any five provisions of French Constitution drafted by National Assembly.

**Ans. • Provisions (2014)**

- (i) Distribution of powers among various organs of the government i.e., Legislative, Executive, judiciary.
- (ii) Powers vested in elected body
- (iii) Right to vote to tax payers only
- (iv) Women – a passive citizen
- (v) Declared natural rights for man and citizens.

**1 MARK**

1. Which Battle sealed the fate of France in 1815 ? (2016, 2013)

**Ans. Battle of Waterloo**

2. In France, the period from 1793 to 1794 is referred to as : (2012)

**Ans. Reign of Terror**

3. What was the main object of National Assembly in France while drafting the constitution in 1791 ? (2016)

**Ans. To limit the powers of monarch**

4. In which book did Rousseau mention the idea of one person, one vote ? (2016)

**Ans. The social contract**

5. Based on the French constitution of 1791, who were known as 'active citizens'?

**Ans. Those who were entitled to vote. (2016)**

6. Who wrote the book 'The spirit of the laws' ? (2016, 2012)

**Ans. Montesquieu**

7. Which class of society in France was behind the French Revolution ? (2016)

**Ans. Middle class**

8. Who enjoyed certain privileges by birth in France during the late 18th century ?

**Ans.** Clergy and Nobles (2016, 2015, 2013)

9. Who was the leader of the Jacobin club ? (2016)

**Ans.** Maximilian Robespierre

10. On which date was France declared a republic by the Convention? (2016)

**Ans.** 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1792

11. In which battles was Napoleon Bonaparte defeated ? (2016)

**Ans.** Battle of Waterloo

12. Why was the Bastille hated by all? (2016, 2014, 2012)

**Ans.** Its army commanders were despotic.

13. Who had forwarded the principle of voting by the assembly as a whole, where each member, should have one vote; during the rule of Louis XVI. (2016)

**Ans.** Rousseau

14. Who were known as the Sans-culottes in France ? (2016)

**Ans.** Jacobins

15. Which book proposed a division of power within government. (2016)

**Ans.** The spirit of laws

16. Who stormed the Bastille, the fortress prison during the last years of 18th century.

**Ans.** Peasants (2016)

17. Marie Antoniette, the Austrian princess, was the queen of which ruler ? (2016)

**Ans.** Louis - XVI

18. Who refuted the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch. (2016)

**Ans.** John Locke

19. The National Anthem of France, Marseillaise was composed by : (2016)

**Ans.** Roget de Lisle

20. The Triangular slave trade was prevalent between which continents ? (2016)

**Ans.** Europe, Africa and the Americas

### NCERT SOLUTIONS

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

**Ans.** Following are some of the causes which had a cumulative effect to result in revolution in France:

## The French Revolution

(a) The war with Britain for an independent America: This war led to mounting debt on the French monarchy and this necessitated imposition of new taxes on the public.

(b) People got privileges and position based on their lineage and not on their merit. This led to resentment among common people.

(c) Concentration of power among the privileged: People belonging to the first and second estate had all the power and money. Masses were at the mercy of this privileged class.

(d) Subsistence Crisis: Rising population and less grain production resulted in demand supply gap of bread, which was the staple diet. Since wages did not keep pace with rising prices, it was becoming difficult for people.

(e) Growing Middle Class: Because of increased overseas trade a new class emerged. This class was wealthy not because of birth but because of its ability to utilize opportunities. People of the middle class started raising their voice for an end to privileges based on lineage.

2. 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?

**Ans.** Peasants and artisans of French society benefited from the revolution. Clergy, nobles and church had to relinquish power. People from the first and the second estate must have been a disappointed lot.

3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Ans.** The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These spread from France to the rest of Europe during the nineteenth century, where feudal systems were abolished. Further these ideas spread to different colonies of the European nations. Colonised people interpreted and moulded these ideas according to respective needs. By the mid of 20th century major part of the world adopted democracy as the preferred mode of rule and the French Revolution can be termed as the initiation point for this development.

4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

**Ans.** The following fundamental rights, given in the Indian constitution can be traced to the French Revolution:

1. The right to equality
2. The right to freedom of speech and expression
3. The right to freedom from exploitation
4. The right to constitutional remedies

5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

**Ans.** The major contradiction in the message of universal rights as per the French Constitution of 1791 was the total ignorance of women. All rights were given to men and made huge number of people as passive citizens, without voting rights.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

**Ans.** After France became a republic in 1792, the then ruler, Robespierre, gave more privileges to the wealthier section of society and he was a sort of autocrat himself. This led to reign of terror for the following many years. After Robespierre's rule came to an end a directory was formed to avoid concentration of power in one individual. Members of the directory often fought among themselves leading to total chaos and political instability. This created a political vacuum in France. This was a conducive situation and Napoleon Bonaparte took the reign of power as a military dictator.

### SELF ASSESSMENT TEST

1. Which rights was established as natural and inalienable right by the constitution of 1791 in France ?
2. Who won the right to vote in France in 1791 ?
3. Which dynasties did Louis XVI belong to ?
4. What does the red cap worn by Sans – culottes signify ?
5. An agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille on :
6. Explain the role of Philosophers in the French revolution of 1789.
7. What compelled Louis XVI to raise taxes in France? Explain any five reasons.
8. Explain the legacy of the 'French Revolution' to the world society.
9. State any five features of the Constitution of 1791 drafted by the National Assembly in France.
10. How did France become a Constitutional Monarchy ? Why were women disappointed by the Constitution of 1791 in France ?

