

# CHAPTER -3 FRENCH REVOLUTION

## HISTORY

### Chapter 1

#### FRENCH REVOLUTION

**Q1. Why was Bastille hated by all?**

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

**Q2. What do you mean by the term Old Regime?**

**Ans.** The term Old Regime is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789.

**Q3. Whom did France help under Louis Xi to gain their independence?**

**Ans:** France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain independence.

**Q4. What do you mean by the term “tithes”?**

**Ans:** The tax taken by the churches from peasants was called tithes.

**Q5. What is Subsistence Crisis?**

**Ans.**

An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered is called subsistence crisis.

**Q6. What idea did the philosopher John Locke give?**

**Ans.** John Locke sought to refute the Doctrine of Divine and absolute right of the monarch.

**Q7. What idea did the philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau give?**

**Ans.** He gave the idea that there should be a relation between people and their representatives.(Social contract between people and their representative)

**Q8. What idea did Montesquieu give?**

**Ans.** Montesquieu gave the idea of the division of power within the government between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

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**Q9. Who was Mirabeau?**

**Ans.**

Mirabeau was born in a noble family but was convinced of the need to do away with a society of feudal privilege. He brought a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds assembled at Versailles.

**Q10. Who were Active Citizens?**

**Ans.**

Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourers wage were given the status of Active Citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.

**Q11. Who were Passive Citizens?**

**Ans.**

The men and women who did not pay taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourers wage were given the status of Passive Citizens.

**Q12. Why were the rulers of other neighbouring countries worried by the developments in France?**

**Ans.**

The rulers of other neighbouring countries were worried by the developments in France because they thought that like the citizens of France their citizens might also revolt.

**Q13. What had the kings of the neighbouring countries planned?**

**Ans.**

The kings of the neighbouring countries had planned to send troops to put down the events that had been taking place in France since the summer of 1789.

**Q14. Who composed the song “Marseillaise”?**

**Ans.** The song “Marseillaise” was composed by the poet, Roget de L’isle.

**Q15. Who were the members of the Jacobin Club?**

**Ans.**

The members of the Jacobin Club were belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society like small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watch-makers, printers, as well as servants and daily wage workers.

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**Q16. What did the Jacobins start wearing?**

**Ans.**

A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers. The Jacobins came to be known as the sans-culottes, literally meaning ‘those without knee breeches.

**Q17. What punishment was given to Louis XVI?**

**Ans.**

Louis XVI was sentenced to death by a court on the charge of treason. He was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde on 21st January 1793.

**Q18. What was guillotine? Who invented guillotine?**

**Ans.** Guillotine was a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person was beheaded. The device got its name by Dr. Guillotine who invented it.

**Q19. Who were the important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee?**

**Ans.** The colonies in the Caribbean – Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo were important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee.

**Q20. 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.

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### Q21. Describe Reign of Terror.

Ans.

- 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 parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal.
- If the court found them 'guilty' they were guillotined.
- Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.
- Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.

### Q22. What were the reasons for the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI?

Ans.

- Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
- High cost of maintenance of immense palace of Versailles and court.
- Under Louis XVI France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain independence. War added to a debt.
- Lenders began to charge high interest on loans.

### Q23. Briefly explain System of estates in France.

Ans.

The system of estates in French Society was organized as :

- ***The First Estate*** : Comprised of clergy, enjoyed many privileges by birth. They were exempted from paying taxes.
- ***The Second Estate***: Comprised of the nobility—enjoyed feudal privileges by birth. They were also exempted from paying taxes.
- ***The Third Estate***: Comprised of peasants, doctors, lawyers, traders, etc. They had to pay taxes.