Chapter 1
The French Revolution

❖ French Society during the Late Eighteenth Century

• 1774: Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France.
• Under Louis XVI, France helped America in gaining their independence from Britain.
• France was experiencing financial instability due to the long years of wars fought by her and the cost of maintaining an extravagant court at the palace of Versailles.
• Taxes were increased for meeting the expenses of maintaining an army, the court and running government offices or universities.
• The French Society was divided into three estates—
  ➢ First Estate: Clergy
  ➢ Second Estate: Nobility
  ➢ Third Estate: Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers, peasants, landless labourers and servants.
• The first two estates enjoyed certain privileges by birth which also excluded them from paying any taxes to the French government.
• The members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the State that included a direct tax called taille and a number of indirect taxes levied on the articles of daily consumption.
• Peasants served in the fields and houses of the privileged classes and they also built the roads and served in the army.
• The Church collected taxes known as tithes from the peasants.
• The price of the food grains increased with an increase in the demand for the same.
• Fixed-waged workers could not afford the expensive food grains. Hence, the gap between the poor and the rich widened.

❖ A growing Middle Class

• 18th century: France witnessed the emergence of social groups and middle class, who earned through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen and silk textiles.
• Philosophers such as John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau envisaged a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.
• Locke refuted the doctrine of the divine and absolute rights of the monarch.
• Rousseau proposed a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.
• Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

❖ The Outbreak of the Revolution
• The Estates General was a political body which had the representatives of all three estates.
• 5th May, 1789: Louis XVI called an assembly of the Estates General for passing proposals for new taxes.
• The first and the second estates sent 300 representatives each and the third estate had 600 members.
• The members of the third estate demanded that the voting must be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote.
• 20th June, 1789: The third estate declared them as the National Assembly and swore to draft a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.
• Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes led the third estate.
• 14th July, 1789: The fortress prison of Bastille was destroyed by the crowd, protesting against the increasing prices of essential commodities.
• Rumours spread saying that the manor had hired bands of brigands who would destroy their ripe crops.
• Peasants in several districts attacked chateaux with hoes and pitchforks.
• A large number of nobles fled from their homes and migrated to the neighbouring countries.
• Louie XVI finally recognized the National Assembly and agreed that the constitution will check his powers thereafter.
• 4th August, 1789: The National Assembly abolished the feudal system, feudal privileges and taxes. Members of the clergy were also forced to give up their privileges, tithes were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated.

❖ France Becomes a Constitutional Monarchy
• 1791: Constitution drafted.
• The Constitution vested the power of making laws in the National Assembly.
• The members of the National Assembly were indirectly elected; the citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly.
- Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer’s wage were given the status of active citizens and were allowed to vote.
- The Constitution also began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens.
- Rights such as the right to live, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as ‘natural and inalienable’ rights.
- Symbols to convey the content of the Declaration of rights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broken chain</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundle of rods or fasces</td>
<td>Strength in unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye with a triangle radiating light</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sceptre</td>
<td>Royal power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake biting its tail to form a ring</td>
<td>Eternity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Phrygian cap</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue, white, red</td>
<td>National colours of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winged woman</td>
<td>Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law tablet</td>
<td>Equality before law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **France Abolishes Monarchy and Becomes a Republic**
  - **1792**: The National Assembly voted for declaration of war against Prussia and Austria.
  - Revolutionary wars brought losses and economic difficulties to the people.
  - Large sections of people continued with the revolution and formed numerous political clubs such as the Jacobins.
    - The Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of the society.
    - *Maximilian Robespierre* was the leader of the Jacobin club.
    - Jacobins wore long striped trousers as opposed to the nobles who wore knee breeches. They also wore a red cap to symbolize liberty.
  - **10th August, 1792**: The Jacobins entered the Palace of the Tuileries, massacred the king’s guards and held the king as hostage for several hours.
  - The Assembly voted for imprisonment of the royal family.
  - Elections were held and all men of 21 years and above, regardless of wealth got the right to vote.
  - The newly elected assembly was called the Convention.
  - **21st September, 1792**: The Convention abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.
  - **21st January, 1793**: Louis XVI was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde. Queen Marie Antoinette met with the same fate shortly after.

- **The Reign of Terror**
1793-1794: Known as the Reign of Terror.

Jacobins under Robespierre practiced a policy of severe control and repression.

Those suspected as the ‘enemies’ of the republic were arrested, imprisoned and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal. These included ex-nobles, clergymen, members of other political parties and those who criticized the Jacobin’s rule.

They were guillotined if the court found them guilty.

Robespierre’s government imposed a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.

Meat and bread were rationed.

Peasants were forced to sell their grain at the prices fixed by the government.

All citizens were required to eat the *pain d’egalite* (equality bread) and discard the use of expensive white flour.

All French men and women were henceforth called *Citoyen* and *Citoyenne* not anymore, *Monsieur* and *Madame*.

Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.

July, 1794: Robespierre was arrested and guillotined the next day.

**A Directory Rules France**

- The fall of the Jacobin government allowed the wealthier middle classes to seize power.
- A new constitution was introduced.
- Voting right to the non-propertied sections of the society was denied.
- The new constitution provided for two elected legislative councils.
- These councils appointed an executive consisting of five members, called the **Directory**.
- The Directory was formed for avoiding the concentration of power.
- Differences arose between the Directory and the legislative councils which paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

**Role of Women**

- Women had to work for a living and also had to take care of their families.
- Women were paid lower wages as compared to men.
- Women started their own political clubs and newspapers such as ‘The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women’.
- They demanded for equal political rights.
- The revolutionary government introduced state schools. Schooling was made compulsory for all girls, marriage could not be forced upon and divorce was made legal.
During the Reign of Terror, laws were issued for closing women’s clubs and banning their political activities.

1946: Women in France won the right to vote.

The Abolition of Slavery

- A triangular slave trade took place between Europe, Africa and America.
- Slaves were bought from the local chieftains of Africa and were sold to the plantation owners in the Caribbean.
- 1794: The Convention legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions. However, Napoleon reintroduced slave trade after some years.
- 1848: Slavery was abolished in the French colonies.

The Revolution and Everyday Life

- Censorship was abolished in France. Books, newspapers and plays could now be read and performed without the approval of the censors of the king.
- The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
- Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded both French towns and countryside.

Rule of Napoleon

- 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France.
- Napoleon saw himself as a moderniser of Europe. He introduced laws such as the protection of property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.
- Napoleonic army was initially viewed to be a liberating force but soon it was seen as an invading force.
- 1815: Napoleon was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo.
- The French ideas of liberty and democratic rights spread to the rest of Europe and inspired many individuals and societies.
CHAPTER- 1
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

POINTS TO REMEMBER :-

• During 18th century French society was divided into Three Estates.
  I. First estate comprised of clergy or priests of churches.
  II. Second estate comprised of nobility which includes high rank officials and feudal lords.
  III. The third estate comprised of rest 90% of population of France which includes peasants, workers, artisans, lower rank court officials, lawyers, landless labour, servants etc.

• All the taxes were to be paid by third estate while other two enjoyed various privileges and has full authority to impose taxes.

• In 1774 Louis XVI ascended the throne of France.
  I. He belongs to the BOURBON family of kings of France.
  II. He was married to Marie Antoinette of Austria.
  III. Empty treasury due to prolong war’s debt and extravagant lifestyles of his ancestors along with the cost of support to American war of Independence forced him to increase tax to meet the demand.
  IV. Subsistence crisis, occurred frequently during old regime, added the discontentment among masses.

• Middle class, which included- lawyer, teachers, philosophers etc, were educated and questioned the privilege by birth.
  I. They dreamt of a society based on equality and proposed their ideas through speeches, books, pamphlets and journals’.
  II. In France of old regime king could impose new taxes only in a political body- Estates General where three estates send their representatives.
  III. Voting was done on Estate wise, rather than individual members.
• On 5th May 1789 Louis XVI called together the meeting of *Estates General* to pass new taxes.
  
  I. This time third estates members demanded person-wise voting in place of estate-wise voting.
  
  II. King rejected this demand and third estate members walked out the assembly in protest.
  
  III. On 20th June 1789 they gathered in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles.
  
  IV. **Bad harvest** due to severe cold along with **king’s order** of troops to move into Paris only fuelled the situation.
  
• On 14th July 1789 the agitated crowd stormed the **Fort of Bastille, a symbol of tyranny** of old regime, and destroyed it.
  
  I. This triggered the **chain of revolt** across the country.
  
  II. Faced with power of revolting subjects, Louis XVI accorded recognition to the **National assembly** and agreed to give up his power.
  
  III. On 4th August 1789 all the **feudal system** of obligation and taxes were abolished by a decree.
  
  IV. Churches’ properties were confiscated and clergy too had to give up all the privileges.
  
  V. **The National Assembly** drafted the constitution in 1791 and distributed the power in- legislature, executive and judiciary along with one person one vote principle.

• However voting was restricted to **ACTIVE CITIZEN** only.

• Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer’s wage were given the status of active citizen.

• Remaining men and all women were cleaned as panive citizen who did not have any political right.

• On 10th August 1792 **Jacobins** planned an insurrection and imprisoned the royal family.

• On 21st September 1792 it declared France a **Republic**.
- Louis XVI was sentenced to death on charge of ‘Treason’ and was publically executed on 21st January 1793.
- The Jacobin leader Robespierre ruled ruthlessly from 1793 to 1794 and his reign was known as “Reign of Terror”.
- In July 1794 Robespierre was convicted of excessivism and executed on Guillotine.
- The fall of Jacobin allowed the wealthier middle class to seize the power and ruled through an Executive, made up of five members, called DIRECTORY from 26th October 1795.
- However the frequent clash of directors with legislative council led to political instability.
- This paved the way for the rise of military dictatorship under Napoleon Bonaparte who ended directory in 1799 and became the ‘First Council and later crowned himself as–The Emperor of France in 1804.
- Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo in 1815.
- The legacy of freedom, equality and fraternity that emerged out of French revolution remained the inspiring ideals of the following world.
- Slavery was finally abolished in 1848 from all the colonies of France.
- Women fought their own way to get right to vote in 1946 in France.

**At a Glance**

**Causes of French Revolution**

- **Political cause:** Weak administration, birth right, poor policies of Louis xvi
- **Social cause:** Difference in society, discrimination
- **Economic cause:** War debt, empty, treasury, bad harvest, unjustified taxation system
- **Role of philosophers:** Ignited peoples mind, talked against birth right, placed a model of administration based on liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- **Immediate cause:** Insistence of Louis XVI on Estate wise voting for increase of Taxes in Estate General in 1789
Recall Important dates and associate the events in connection to French Revolution:

1 Mark Questions

1. Who was the king of France during French Revolution?
2. In how many Estates French society was divided in 18th century?
3. Who were nobles?
4. Which Estate of France paid all the taxes?
5. Who wrote the Book – “The Social Contract”?
6. Louis XVI was related to which family of French dynasty?
7. Who wrote the French national anthem – Marsiellaise?
8. What was Guillotine?
9. What was Estate General?
10. Name the currency of France which was used till 1794?
11. Name the tax which was levied by the Church and was 1/10th of produce?
12. What was Estate?
13. What was the work of Priest or clergy?
14. Name the tax which was paid directly to the state?
15. What is the situation called in which there is a danger of survival?
16. When did the abolition of slavery take place in French colonies?
17. When did Napoleon Bonaparte become the Emperor of France?
(18) When did Napoleon fight the “Battle of Waterloo”?
(19) Why was the reign of Robespierre called – “reign of terror”?
(20) How France became republic?

3/5 Marks Question
(1) What was condition of France when Louis XVI ascended the throne?
(2) Explain ‘Third Estate’
(3) What law was passed by National Assembly in France on 4th August 1789?
(4) Describe the condition of women in 18th century French society? Does French revolution change any of it?
(5) Describe the rise of Jacobin club in France?
(6) What legacy was left behind by the French revolution for the world?
(7) Explain the rise of Napoleon?
(8) What was subsistence crisis in France? How it triggered the French Revolution?
(9) Which rights were described as the “Natural and inalienable” by the French constitution of 1791?
(10) “French Revolution didn’t fulfil the aspiration of all the sections of society.” Explain your answer with suitable argument.

Answers
1 Mark questions
(1) Louis XVI
(2) Three estates
(3) Wealthy and high rank officials were called nobles.
(4) The Third Estates paid all the taxes.
(5) Jean Jacques Rousseau
(6) Bourbon family
(7) Roget de L’Isle
(8) The Guillotine was a device consisting of the two poles and blade with which a person was beheaded.
(9) Estate General was a political organisation in France prior to 1789 revolution in which all the Estates sent their representatives.
(10) Livares
(11) Tithe
(12) The social division in French society till late 18th century were called Estate.
(13) To do the prayer as well as special works of church.
(14) Taille
(15) Subsistence crisis
(16) 1848
(17) 1804
(18) 1815
(19) Due to Robespierre’s policy of severe control and punishment during 1793 to 1794, it was called “reign of terror”.
(20) On 21st September 1792 newly elected assembly, ‘Convention’, abolished the monarchy and declared France as republic.

3/5 Mark Questions

(1) (i) Empty treasury,
    (ii) Destruction of economic resources due to war,
    (iii) Extravagant cost of living by the kings.
    (iv) A debt of more than ten billion livres,
    (v) A demand of interest by the lenders

(2) (i) The Third Estate was comprised of peasants, landless labours, teachers, lawyers etc.
    (ii) It was the lowest strata of the French society,
    (iii) They didn’t have any political rights,
    (iv) All the taxes imposed by state or church were to be paid by them only.
    (v) During French revolution they fought against birth rights and feudal privileges’

(3) (i) End of feudal system of obligation and taxes,
    (ii) Forced priestly class to give up their privileges’
    (iii) End of religious taxes like “tithe”,


(iv) Confiscation of church property.

(4) (i) Worked for subsistence,

(ii) They didn’t have access to education or job training,

(iii) They worked as laundresses, sold flower or even worked as domestic servant,

(iv) Their wages were lower than men,

(v) Though after French revolution their condition improved a bit yet they were eluded by general political right to vote till 1946.

(5) (i) The revolutionary wars brought losses and economic hardship to the people,

(ii) Political clubs became an important rallying point for people to discuss government policies and their own course of action,

(iii) The most successful of these club was the Jacobin, whose members belong mainly - small shopkeeper, shoemaker, servants, daily-wage workers etc

(iv) Their leader was Maxmillian Robespierre who adopted red cap (a symbol of liberty) along with a trouser without knee breaches as worn by the dockyard labourer.

(v) All this was done to show themselves apart from the wealthier class and nobility and to show solidarity with lower class which made them favourite.

(6) The legacy left behind by the French revolution were –

(i) End of feudal privileges

(ii) The ideal of liberty

(iii) The principal of equality

(iv) The sense of brotherhood

(v) The idea of democracy

(7) (i) After the fall of Jacobin govt, wealthier middle class once again got an opportunity to seize power,
(ii) A new constitution denied the vote to non-propertied sections of society and has provisions for two legislative council, a safeguard against concentration of power in one hand,

(iii) This then appoint a five member executive, known as Directory.

(iv) However the Directors often clash with the legislative councils, who then sought to dismiss them

(v) This political instability of directory paved the way for the rise of military dictator, Napoleon who between 1793 to 1796 conquered most of the central Europe and defeated Austria, Prussia and Russia to become national Hero.

(8) (i) The production of food grain didn’t keep pace with the rapid increase in population, so the price of bread rose rapidly.

(ii) As wages were fixed for the workers, the rising price of bread got out of their reach,

(iii) Situation worsen whenever there was drought or hail and thus an extreme situation prevailed where the basic means of livelihood were endangered-called subsistence crisis

(iv) This situation triggers the bell of French Revolution as angry women stormed into the bakery shop after spending hours in long queues as cold winter had destroyed the harvest,

(v) They marched towards the kings palace asking for bread, while their men were striking in tennis court for justice. This led to a chain of events which culminated in French Revolution.

(9) (i) In 1791 the National Assembly completed the draft of the constitution.

(ii) The constitution began with a declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen,

(iii) Rights such as right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law were established as natural and inalienable rights.

(iv) These rights were considered as a right by birth which cannot be taken away

(v) It was the duty of state to protect each citizen’s natural rights.
(10) (i) French Revolution was fought by all unprivileged sections of the French society like-merchants, peasants, landless-labourers, women etc.

(ii) All have their own believes and aspiration from French Revolution

(iii) They aspire for a better life in terms of food and work,

(iv) However it didn’t fulfil those aspirations, like political rights was reserved for wealthy class, women had to fight for almost two century before they got voting rights in 1946.

(v) Actually its very own principles of liberty and equality were violated when they denied the rights to its poor citizen, women and slaves who got emancipated ultimately in 1848.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. &quot;The French Revolution is most important for having changed subjects to citizens.&quot;</td>
<td>B) divine right rule to people's participation in government</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. One way in which the caste system in traditional India and the Estates system of pre-revolutionary France are similar is that</td>
<td>B) social mobility was very limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. One way in which Robespierre and Louis XVI of France are similar is that both</td>
<td>B) were removed from power during the French Revolution</td>
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<td>4. Belief in the ideas of the Enlightenment and discontent within the Third Estate were causes of the</td>
<td>A) French Revolution</td>
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<td>5. Maximilien Robespierre and the Jacobins are best known for</td>
<td>A) instituting the Reign of Terror</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Which issue was a cause of the French Revolution?</td>
<td>D) demand of the Third Estate for more political power</td>
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<td>7. Which event is most closely associated with the French Revolution?</td>
<td>C) Reign of Terror</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Which of these events related to the French Revolution occurred first?</td>
<td>C) Louis XVI called the Estates General into session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. One way in which Robespierre and Napoleon are similar is that they both</td>
<td>B) increased their power during the French Revolution</td>
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<td>10. Under the Old Regime in France, the burden of taxation fell mostly on the</td>
<td>D) commoners</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. What was one effect of the French Revolution?</td>
<td>D) Nationalistic feelings were stimulated.</td>
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12. Which revolution was caused by the factors shown in this partial outline?

I. _______________________
   A. Bankruptcy of the treasury
   B. Tax burden on the Third Estate
   C. Inflation
   D. Abuses of the Old Regime

A) Russian     B) Mexican     C) French     D) Cuban

13. One major effect of Napoleon's rule of France was that it led to

A) an increase in the power of the Roman Catholic Church
B) massive emigration to the Americas
C) trade agreements with Great Britain
D) a restoration of political stability

14. At the Congress of Vienna (1815), the governments of Europe reacted to the French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon by attempting to

A) restore old regimes to power
B) spread the idea of democracy
C) encourage nationalist movements
D) promote the European free-trade zone
15. Base your answer to the following question on the diagram below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Which revolution resulted from the division of society shown in this diagram?
A) Puritan (1642)  B) French (1789)  C) Mexican (1910)  D) Russian (1917)

16. Which statement is best supported by information found in this chart?
A) Clergy were spared from the Reign of Terror.
B) The Reign of Terror affected all classes equally.
C) The Reign of Terror crossed social and economic boundaries.
D) Peasants were the most frequent victims of the Reign of Terror.

17. During which revolution did these executions occur?
A) French  B) Russian  C) Chinese  D) Cuban

18. A comparison of the actions of the Jacobins during the French Revolution and the actions of the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution indicates that revolutions sometimes
A) occur in a peaceful manner
B) gain the support of wealthy landowners
C) ignore urban workers
D) bring radicals to power

19. What was a major cause of the French Revolution?
A) religious and cultural similarities
B) industrialization and modernization
C) geographic size and location
D) political and economic instability

20. Which factors protected Russia from control by Napoleon’s army?
A) religious and cultural similarities
B) industrialization and modernization
C) geographic size and location
D) political and economic instability
21. Before the French Revolution, the people of France were divided into three estates based mainly on their

A) education level  B) geographic region
C) social class      D) religious beliefs

22. Which statement describes a similarity between the French Revolution and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia?

A) The leaders in power before the revolutions favored changing the political system in their country.
B) Both revolutions were the result of government denial of basic human rights and stressful economic conditions.
C) Most of the revolutionary support was provided by radicals from other countries.
D) The new democracies created by the revolutions gave people greater representation in their governments.

23. Which list of French leaders is in the correct chronological order?

A) Louis XVI →Napoleon →Robespierre
B) Robespierre →Napoleon →Louis XVI
C) Louis XVI →Robespierre →Napoleon
D) Napoleon →Louis XVI →Robespierre

24. Which conclusion can be drawn from this drawing?

A) Protestant Reformation
B) French Revolution
C) Napoleonic Wars
D) European Renaissance

25. This drawing illustrates conditions that contributed primarily to the beginning of the

A) Protestant Reformation
B) French Revolution
C) Napoleonic Wars
D) European Renaissance
26. The American and French Revolutions were turning points in global history because the results of these revolutions
A) led to the abolition of slavery
B) inspired other peoples seeking democracy and independence
C) marked the end of European influence in the Western Hemisphere
D) demonstrated the need for strong international peacekeeping organizations

27. One of the main purposes of the Congress of Vienna (1814–1815) was to
A) promote the unification of Italy
B) preserve the German territories gained by Otto von Bismarck
C) restore the power of the Holy Roman Empire
D) establish a balance of power in Europe after the defeat of Napoleon

28. "Estates General Meet for First Time in 175 Years"
"National Assembly Issues Declarations of the Rights of Man"
"Reign of Terror Ends; Robespierre Dies"
Which event in European history is most closely associated with these headlines?
A) Puritan Revolution
B) Hundred Years War
C) French Revolution
D) signing of the Magna Carta

29. A major goal of the Congress of Vienna was to
A) establish democratic governments in all European nations
B) maintain a balance of power in Europe
C) return Napoleon Bonaparte to power
D) create independent governments for Austria and Hungary

Base your answers to questions 30 and 31 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"During the greater part of the day the guillotine had been kept busy at its ghastly work . . . . Every aristocrat was a traitor. . . . For two hundred years now the people had sweated, and toiled, and starved to keep a lustful court in lavish extravagance; now the descendants of those who had helped to make these courts brilliant had to hide for their lives."

30. Which generalization best summarizes the views of the author of this passage?
A) The common people of the nation deserved to be punished for violating the country’s laws.
B) The goals of fraternity, equality, and liberty were achieved in this period.
C) The nobility was being punished for bringing benefits to the nation.
D) Because of past abuses by the nobility, the common people staged a bloody revolt.

31. Which event is referred to in this passage?
A) adopt the ideas of the Protestant Reformation
B) restore Louis XVI to power
C) provide stability for the nation
D) end British control of France

32. The French people supported Napoleon Bonaparte because they hoped he would
A) adopt the ideas of the Protestant Reformation
B) restore Louis XVI to power
C) provide stability for the nation
D) challenge the role and power of the monarch

33. One way in which the Glorious Revolution in England, the French Revolution, and the Iranian Revolution are similar is that each revolution
A) required foreign military intervention
B) resulted in a republican form of government
C) brought about religious freedom
D) challenged the role and power of the monarch

34. One important result of the French Revolution was that
A) France enjoyed a lengthy period of peace and prosperity
B) the Church was restored to its former role and power in the French government
C) political power shifted to the bourgeoisie
D) France lost its spirit of nationalism
35. The French Revolution of 1789 and the Cuban Revolution of 1959 were similar in that both were caused primarily by the
A) desire of the people to be free from foreign rule
B) pressure of religious leaders for government reform
C) failure of the government to meet the needs of the people
D) ambition of the upper class to attain wealth and property

36. In France, which was a major result of the French Revolution?
A) The King was restored to unlimited power.
B) The clergy dominated government.
C) The middle class gained political influence.
D) The tax burden was carried by the lower classes.

37. The French bourgeoisie supported the French Revolution mainly because they
A) believed in the theory of divine right of kings
B) were not allowed to own property under the Old Regime
C) resented their lack of political power under the Old Regime
D) wanted a communist form of government

38. Which statement is a valid generalization about the immediate results of the French Revolution of 1789?
A) The Roman Catholic Church increased its power and wealth.
B) The Revolution achieved its goal of establishing peace, democracy, and justice for all.
C) The Revolution had little impact outside France.
D) The French middle class gained more power.

39. The main purpose of the Congress of Vienna (1815) was to
A) return Europe to the conditions that existed before the French Revolution
B) establish strategies needed to rebuild Turkey's economy
C) create a European Court of Justice
D) promote the ideas of the French Revolution

40. The French Revolution of 1789, the Chinese Revolution of 1911, and the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 were similar in that these revolutions
A) were led by ruthless dictators
B) were motivated by a desire to overthrow a monarch
C) led directly to the establishment of communism
D) established a higher standard of living for the middle class

41. A primary cause of the French Revolution in 1789 was the
A) increasing dissatisfaction of the Third Estate
B) rise to power of Napoleon Bonaparte
C) actions of Prince Metternich
D) execution of Louis XVI
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Question 1

(a) Why were the ‘Directory’ appointed? [1]
(b) Who were known as ‘active citizens’ in the National Assembly? [1]
(c) What was a ‘Chateau’? [1]
(d) Which proposal of the third estate was rejected by Louis XVI? [1]
(e) What did the ‘law tablet’ symbolise in the Declaration of Rights? [1]
(f) What thought was put forward by John Locke in his book ‘Two Treatises of Government’? [1]
(g) What was the Estates General? [1]

Question 2

(a) While the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting the constitution, the rest of France seethed in turmoil. State whether the statement is true or false. Explain. [3]
(b) Why were the Jacobins known as ‘sans-culottes’? [3]
(c) Explain the landmark decisions were taken by the National Assembly led by the Third Estate on 4th August, 1789. [3]

Question 3

(a) Discuss the participation of women in political clubs, their activities and demands. [5]

Question 4  Map Work [4]

On an outline map of France, mark the following:

i. Paris
ii. Nantes
iii. Bordeaux
iv. Marseilles
The French Revolution
Louis XVI

• In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France.
• He was 20 years old and married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette.
• Upon his accession the new king found an empty treasury. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
• Added to this was the cost of maintaining an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles.
French Society During the Late Eighteenth Century

- Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain.
- The war added more than a billion livres to a debt.
- Lenders who gave the state credit, now began to charge 10 per cent interest on loans.
- So the French government was obliged to spend an increasing percentage of its budget on interest payments alone.
- To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.
- French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, and only members of the third estate paid taxes.
A Society of Estates.

• 1st estate : Clergy

• 2nd estate: Nobility

• 3rd estate: Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers etc.
  • : Peasants, artisans
  • : Small peasants, landless labours, servants.
Taxes

• The Church too extracted its share of taxes called tithes from the peasants, and finally, all members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state.

• These included a direct tax, called taille, and a number of indirect taxes which were levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco.

• The burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the third estate alone.
The Struggle to Survive

• The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in the demand for foodgrains.

• Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly.

• Most workers were employed as labourers in workshops whose owner fixed their wages. But wages did not keep pace with the rise in prices.

• So the gap between the poor and the rich widened.

• Things became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest.

• This led to a subsistence crisis, something that occurred frequently in France during the Old Regime.

*(Subsistence crisis – An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered)*
A Growing Middle Class Envisages an End to Privileges

• The eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of social groups, termed the middle class.

• In addition to merchants and manufacturers, the third estate included professions such as lawyers or administrative officials. All of these were educated and believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth.

• Rather, a person’s social position must depend on his merit. These ideas envisaging a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all
John Locke

- In his Two Treatises of Government,
- Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Rousseau carried the idea forward, proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.
Montesquieu

• In The Spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.
Mirabeau and Abbé Sieyès

• **Mirabeau** was born in a noble family but was convinced of the need to do away with a society of feudal privilege.

• He brought out a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds assembled at Versailles.

• **Abbé Sieyès**, originally a priest, wrote an influential pamphlet called

• ‘What is the Third Estate’?
Ideas of these philosophers

• The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers.
• These were frequently read aloud in groups for the benefit of those who could not read and write.
• The news that Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes to be able to meet the expenses of the state generated anger and protest against the system of privileges.
The Outbreak of the Revolution

• On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes.

• The first and second estates sent 300 representatives each, who were seated in rows facing each other on two sides, while the 600 members of the third estate had to stand at the back.

• The third estate was represented by its more prosperous and educated members. Peasants, artisans and women were denied entry to the assembly.

• However, their grievances and demands were listed in some 40,000 letters On 20 June they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles.

• They declared themselves a National Assembly and swore not to disperse till they
• had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.
The Outbreak of the Revolution Cont.....

• Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now on be checked by a constitution.

• On the night of 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes.

• Members of the clergy too were forced to give up their privileges.

• Tithes were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated.

• As a result, the government acquired assets worth at least 2 billion livres.
France Becomes a Constitutional Monarchy

• The National Assembly completed the draft 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.
The Constitution of 1791

- The Constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected.
- That is, citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly.
- Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote.
- Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer’s wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.
- The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens.
- To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.
The Declaration of Rights of Man and

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.
2. The aim of every political association is the preservation of the natural and inalienable rights of man; these are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression.
3. The source of all sovereignty resides in the nation; no group or individual may exercise authority that does not come from the people.
4. Liberty consists of the power to do whatever is not injurious to others.
5. The law has the right to forbid only actions that are injurious to society.
The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen

6. Law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to participate in its formation, personally or through their representatives. All citizens are equal before it.

7. No man may be accused, arrested or detained, except in cases determined by the law.

11. Every citizen may speak, write and print freely; he must take responsibility for the abuse of such liberty in cases determined by the law.

12. For the maintenance of the public force and for the expenses of administration a common tax is indispensable; it must be assessed equally on all citizens in proportion to their means.

17. Since property is a sacred and inviolable right, no one may be deprived of it, unless a legally established public necessity requires it. In that case a just compensation must be given in advance.
France Abolishes Monarchy and Becomes a Republic

• The situation in France continued to be tense during the following years.

• Although Louis XVI had signed the Constitution, he entered into secret negotiations with the King of Prussia.

• Rulers of other neighbouring countries too were worried by the developments in France and made plans to send troops to put down the events that had been taking place there since the summer of 1789.

• Before this could happen, the National Assembly voted in April 1792 to declare war against Prussia and Austria.
France Abolishes Monarchy and Becomes a Republic

• The newly elected assembly was called the Convention.
• On 21 September 1792 it abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.
• As you know, a republic is a form of government where the people elect the government including the head of the government.
• There is no hereditary monarchy.
Execution of the King

• Louis XVI was sentenced to death by a court on the charge of treason.

• On 21 January 1793 he was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde.

• The queen Marie Antoinette met with the same fate shortly after.
Louis XVI

Marie Antionette
The Reign of Terror

• 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.
The Guillotine

- The guillotine is a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person is beheaded.
- It was named after Dr Guillotin who invented it.
A Directory Rules France

- The fall of the Jacobin government 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.
- The political instability of the Directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.
The Directory
Napoleon Bonaparte

- The political instability of the Directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.
Did Women have a Revolution?

• Women hoped that their involvement would pressurise the revolutionary government to introduce measures to improve their lives.

• Most women of the third estate had to work for a living.

• They worked as seamstresses or laundresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables at the market, or were employed as domestic servants in the houses of prosperous people.

• Most women did not have access to education or job training. Only daughters of nobles or wealthier members of the third estate could study at a convent, after which their families arranged a marriage for them.
Did Women have a Revolution? Cont…

• In order to discuss and voice their interests women started their own political clubs and newspapers. About sixty women’s clubs came up in different French cities.

• The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of them. One of their main demands was that women enjoy the same political rights as men.

• Women were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizens.

• They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office.

• Only then, they felt, would their interests be represented in the new government.
Women’s Rights

• In the early years, the revolutionary government did introduce laws that helped improve the lives of women.

• Women’s struggle for equal political rights, however, continued. During the Reign of Terror, the new government issued laws ordering closure of women’s clubs and banning their political activities.

• Many prominent women were arrested and a number of them executed.

• Women’s movements for voting rights and equal wages continued through the next two hundred years in many countries of the world.

• The fight for the vote was carried out through an international suffrage movement during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

• It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.
The Abolition of Slavery

• One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery in the French colonies.
• The slave trade began in the seventeenth century.
• French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains.
• Branded and shackled, the slaves were packed tightly into ships for the three-month long voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean.
The Abolition of Slavery Cont…

• There they were sold to plantation owners. The exploitation of slave labour made it possible to meet the growing demand in European markets for sugar, coffee, and indigo.
• Port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes owed their economic prosperity to the flourishing slave trade.
• It was finally the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.
• This, however, turned out to be a short-term measure: ten years later, Napoleon reintroduced slavery.
The Revolution and Everyday Life

• Abolition of censorship
• the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
• Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of people.
• This was one way they could grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about at length in texts which only a handful of educated people could read.
Conclusion

• In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France.
• 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.
• 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.
• 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
The French Revolution of 1789

1. Rule of kings until 1789
2. Estates general called in 1789
3. Fall of Bastille July 1789
4. New Constitution 1789-1791
5. Republic 1792
6. Extremists in power 1793
7. Reign of Terror 1793-1794
8. The Directory 1795
9. Napoleon First Consul 1799