

**CBSE Class 9 Social Science**  
**Important Questions**  
**History Chapter-1**  
**The French Revolution**

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**5 marks Questions**

**1. Describe the main features of the constitution of 1791. Mention any five points.**

**Ans.** Constitutional Monarchy: The new constitution made France a constitutional Monarchy.

National Assembly: It had 745 members and was indirectly elected and could legislate.

Right to Vote: Only men above the age of 25 who paid taxes has equal to 3 day of a labourer's wage were active citizens and can vote.

Powers of National Assembly: This body had the organs- legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

The Declaration of Rights and Man and Citizens: The Constitution began with this declaration and included rights like rights to life, freedom of speech and freedom of opinion.

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**2. Write a short note on the Reign of Terror in France. Describe any five steps taken by him to consolidate his power in France.**

**Ans.** The period from 1793 to 1794 is known as the reign of terror. Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment.

Maximum ceiling on wages and prices.

Rationing of Meat and bread.

Peasants were made their grain to the cities and sell it at fixed price.

Use of more expensive white flour was for bidden.

All were to eat the equality bread a loaf made of whole wheat.

Equality in forms of speech and address.

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

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**3. What changes people witnessed everyday life after the revolution of 1789 in France?**

**Ans.** After the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a law was passed according to which

editorship on press was abolished.

The Constitution of 1791 began with a Declaration of the Rights of man and citizen. It proclaimed that freedom of speech and opinion and equality before law were natural rights of each human being by birth.

Newspapers, pamphlets and printed pictures appeared steadily in the towns of France. From France this printed material travelled into countryside. These publications described and discussed the events and changes taking place in country.

The Freedom of Press allowed expression of the opposing views of events. Each side could now try to convince others of its stand on any event or problem.

Much use was made of plays, songs and festive processions which attracted large number of people.

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#### **4. Explain the achievements of Napoleon Bonaparte in France.**

**Ans.** Napoleon Bonaparte was a military dictator of France. After crowning himself as the emperor of France in 1804, he saw his role as a modernizer of Europe.

He introduced a law for the protection of private property.

He introduced a uniform system of weights and measures.

Initially many saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people.

Many of his measures carried the revolutionary ideas of liberty and modern laws to other parts of Europe.

They left a long lasting impact on the lives of people there.

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#### **5. Explain triangular slave trade carried on during 18th and 19th century.**

**Ans.** There occurred a shortage of labour on the plantations in the Caribbean when European refused to go and work in the distant land.

This problem was solved by a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and the America.

French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast. There they bought slaves from local chieftains.

The slaves were branded and shackled. They were then packed tightly into ships which carried them to the Caribbean. There they were sold to plantation owners.

The exploitation of slave labour, thus met the growing demand in European markets for

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sugar, coffee and indigo.

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**6. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world.**

**Ans.** The 1791 constitution began with a declaration of the rights of men and citizen. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, etc were considered as basic or natural and inalienable rights which could not be taken. Tipu Sultan and Rammohan Roy, Indian individuals responded to the ideas of liberty and equality coming from revolutionary France. The new revolutionary ideas spread to France occupied areas in Europe and abroad. People in such areas, began dreaming of sovereign nation states. Colonized people in Africa, Asia and Latin America reworked the idea of freedom from bondage into their movements to create sovereign new states.

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**7. Which was the important law that came into effect soon after the storming of Bastille in the summer of 1789? How did it change the lives of the common people? Explain.**

**Ans.** Abolition of censorship was the important law that came into effect soon after storming of Bastille in July 1789. Newspaper, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where it reached to countryside. They all discussed events and changes taking place in France. Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed. Plays, songs and festive processions attracted common people through which they could identify with ideas such as liberty or justice.

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**8. State any five causes of the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI.**

**Ans.** 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. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain. The war added more than a billion livres to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion livres.

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Lenders, who gave the state credit, now began to charge 10 percent interest on loans. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities.

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### **9. How was church responsible for the French revolution?**

**Ans.** About 60% of the land was owned by nobles, the church and other richer members of the third estate.

The church enjoyed a certain privilege that was they were exempted from paying taxes to the state.

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 include a direct tax called taille, and a number of indirect taxes which 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.

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### **10. Explain the role of philosophers in the French Revolution of 1789.**

**Ans.** In Two treaties of Government, Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch.

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

In the Spirit of the 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 intensely in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspaper.

Patriotic song Marseillaise composed by poet Roget de L'Isle. It was sung for the first time by volunteers from Marseilles as they marched into Paris and so got its name. The Marseilles is now the national anthem of France.