

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. When was the Bastille Prison stormed?

Ans. Bastille Prison was broken by revolutionaries on the morning of 14th July, 1789.

Q.2. Why was Bastille Prison attacked?

Ans. The Bastille prison was attacked with a hope to find hoarded ammunition for the revolution.

Q.3. Which ruler came to power in France in 1774?

Ans. Louis XVI of Bourbon family.

Q.4. Whom did Louis XVI get married to?

Ans. Princess Marie Antoinette of Austria.

Q.5. Why was treasury empty when Louis XVI ascended the throne?

Ans. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France and along with it was the cost of maintaining an extravagant court at immense palace of Versailles.

Q.6. Why did the French government increase the taxes?

Ans. 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 the taxes.

Q.7. Who formed the First and Second Estates of French Society?

Ans. The clergy and the nobility were the members of the first and second estate respectively.

Q.8. What does 'subsistence crisis' mean?

Ans. It is an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood were endangered.

Q.9. What were the views of John Locke in inspiring the people for French Revolution?

Ans. Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch in his book 'Two Treatises of Government'.

Q.10. What was the Estates General?

Ans. The Estates General was a political body to which the three estates sent their representatives.

Q.11. What was the immediate cause of French Revolution?

Ans. Due to bad harvest, the prices of bread rose and often bakers hoarded the bread. The angry women who could not get bread after long hours in the queues stormed into the shops.

Q.12. When was the draft of the National Assembly's constitution completed and what was its main objective?

Ans. The draft of the constitution was completed in 1791 and its main objective was to limit the powers of the monarch.

Q.13. Who all got the right to vote for National Assembly?

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 citizen and the right to vote.

Q.14. Who could qualify as an Elector?

Ans. To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.

Q.15. What was 'Marseillaise'?

Ans. It was a patriotic song sung by volunteers of Marseilles as they marched into Paris. Marseillaise is now the national anthem of France.

Q.16. What were political clubs?

Ans. Political clubs were formed by people to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action. Women too formed such clubs.

Q.17. Who was the leader of Jacobin club?

Ans. Maximilian Robespierre.

Q.18. Who were 'Sans-Culottes'?

Ans. They were the common lower class working people in late 18th century, who wore long trousers rather than the knee breaches, favoured by the aristocracy. They wore red caps to symbolise liberty.

Q.19. Which new Assembly was formed by Jacobins?

Ans. Jacobins elected new assembly which was called convention.

Q.20. Who introduced 'Reign of terror' in France?

Ans. Maximilian Robespierre introduced 'Reign of Terror' when he followed a policy of severe control and punishment in France.

Q.21. What was 'Directory'?

Ans. 'Directory' was an executive made up of five members. They were appointed by two elected legislative councils.

Q.22. Name the important political clubs formed by women in France to fight for their political rights.

Ans. The society of Revolutionary and The Republican Women.

Q.23. When did women finally get the right to vote in France?

Ans. 1946.

Q.24. Between which three continents triangular slave trade was held?

Ans. The triangular slave trade was held between Europe, Africa and America.

Q.25. When was slavery finally abolished in French colonies?

Ans. Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

Q.26. When did Napoleon Bonaparte become Emperor of France?

Ans. In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself as an Emperor of France.

Q.27. In which famous war was Napoleon Bonaparte defeated?

Ans. Napoleon was finally defeated at 'Battle of Waterloo' in 1815.

Q.28. What was the most important legacy of the French Revolution?

Ans. The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How did American war of Independence add more debt to France?

Ans. The French army supported thirteen colonies of America in their war of independence against Britain. It added more than one billion livres (unit of currency in France) that had risen to more than two billion livres with ten percent interest on loans.

Q.2. Which social groups emerged as 'middle class' in 18th century France?

Ans. The social groups who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen and silk textiles that were either exported or bought by the richer members of society.

Q.3. Which proposal of the third estate was rejected by Estates General?

Ans. The third estate demanded that voting should be conducted by the assembly as a whole, in which, each member would have one vote. But the king rejected this proposal and therefore members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

Q.4. 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 out a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds assembled at Versailles.

Q.5. Describe the French division of society.

Ans. The French society was divided into three Estates:

(i) First Estate: It comprised of the church and the clergy. They enjoyed certain privileges by birth. They were exempted from paying taxes to the state.

(ii) Second Estate: In the second estate, were the nobles and other rich members. They were also exempted from paying taxes. They also enjoyed feudal privileges. These included feudal dues from the peasants.

(iii) Third Estate: About 90 per cent of the population was peasants. They were obliged to work in the fields of their landlords as well as in their houses,

and also serve in the army. They were paying all direct taxes like 'taille' and a number of indirect taxes were also levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco.

Q.6. What was the role of the philosophers in the French Revolution?

Ans. Ideas of having a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all were put forward by the French philosophers.

(i) John Locke: Locke wrote, 'Two Treatises of Government'. In this book, he criticised the divine and absolute rights of the monarch rulers.

(ii) John Jacques Rousseau: Rousseau had written his viewpoints in his book, 'The Social Contract'. He had put forward the idea of formation of a government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.

(iii) Montesquieu: His ideas were proposed in his book, 'The Spirit of the Laws'. According to him, there should be a division of power between the three important organs—the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

The ideas of these philosophers were discussed by common people in salons and coffee houses and inspired them to fight for their rights.

Q.7. What do you know about the 'Estates General'?

Ans. 'The Estates General' was a political body to which the three estates sent their representatives. In France of the Old Regime, the monarch did not have the power to impose taxes to his will alone. Rather he had to call a meeting of the Estates General to pass the proposals for new taxes. However, it was the monarch alone who could decide when to call a meeting of this body.

Q.8. Elucidate the contribution of Mirabeau in the formation of the National Assembly.

Ans. Mirabeau was born in a noble family but was convinced to do away with a society of feudal privileges. On 20 June, the third estate assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles. Mirabeau brought out a journal and delivered powerful speeches to the crowds assembled at Versailles.

Q.9. How did peasants protest against the feudal lords or nobles of France?

Ans. There were rumours that the landlords of the manor had hired some people to destroy the ripened crops. Being afraid of the situation, peasants in

several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked chateaux (castles belonging to the noblemen). They looted hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of mamorial dues.

As a result, a large number of nobles fled from their homes and migrated to the neighbouring countries.

Q.10. How was the National Assembly recognised and how did it start exercising its powers?

Ans. When people revolted, Louis XVI finally gave recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the fact that his powers now would be checked by a Constitution. On 4 August, 1789, the National Assembly passed a law 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 by the government. As a result, the government acquired assets worth 2 billions livres.

Q.11. Differentiate between Active and Passive Citizens.

Ans. (i) Active Citizens: 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. Only they had the right to vote.

(ii) Passive Citizens: Whereas, the remaining men as well as all the women of France, who were not entitled to vote were called Passive Citizens.

Q.12. What rights were provided by the French Constitution?

Ans. The Constitution began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law were established. These rights were considered as natural rights, which belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away.

It was the duty of the government to protect these natural rights of the citizens.

Q.13. What do you know about the political clubs formed in France?

Ans. Large sections of the population believed that the revolution had to be carried further, as the Constitution of 1791 had given the rights only to the richer section. So, political clubs became important for the people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action. The most successful of these clubs was the Jacobin Club. Women too formed their own clubs to get the right to vote.

Q.14. What was a 'Directory'? Why was it removed from France?

Ans. After the fall of Jacobins, a new Constitution was formed which denied the right to vote to non-propertied men. It provided two elected legislative Councils, who appointed a Directory, an executive made up of five members. However, the directors often clashed with the legislative councils and were finally dismissed. With this, political instability emerged in France which gave rise to a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

Q.15. How did women suffer in France?

Ans. Most of the women had to work for a living. They worked as laundresses or seamstresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables or were employed as domestic servants. They could not get education or job training. Working women had also to take care of their families, that is cook, fetch water, queue up for bread and look after children. Their wages were also lower than men.

Q.16. Which laws were made to improve the status of women in the French society?

Ans. In the beginning, the revolutionary government introduced laws to improve the lives of women.

(i) Schooling was made compulsory for all girls.

(ii) Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will.

(iii) Divorce was made legal and could be applied for, by both men and women.

(iv) Women could now be trained for jobs, could become artists or run small businesses.

Q.17. What was the immediate cause of the French Revolution?

Ans. A severe winter had meant a bad harvest, the price of bread rose, often bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies. After spending long hours in long queues at the bakery, crowds of angry women stormed into the shops. At the same time, the king ordered troops to move into Paris and on 14th July, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille.

Q.18. How did the French people ultimately get the right to vote to all citizens?

Ans. In the summer of 1792, the Jacobins planned an insurrection of a large number of Parisians who were angered by the short supply and high prices of food. On the morning of August 10, they stormed the palace of Tuileries, massacred the king's guards and held the king hostage for several hours. Later the Assembly voted to imprison the royal family. Elections were held.

From now on, all men of 21 years and above regardless of wealth, got the right to vote.

Q.19. When had France become a Republic?

Ans. The newly elected assembly was called the 'Convention'. On 21st Sep. 1792, it abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. What were the main causes of the French Revolution?

Ans. Causes of the French Revolution:

(i) Despotic rule of Louis XVI: He became the ruler of France in 1774. He had drained the financial resources of France in wars. For the cost of his regular extravagant expenses, he increased taxes which were paid by the third estate.

(ii) Division of French society: The French society was divided into three estates; first, second and third estates, respectively. Among them, First and Second Estates had 10 per cent of the total population and were the clergy and nobles. They enjoyed all privileges. Rest of the 90 per cent was of the third estate, which paid all kinds of direct or indirect taxes. This kind of discrimination led to the revolution by the third estate.

(iii) Rising prices: The population of France had increased. This resulted into more demand of food grains. So the price of bread rose rapidly, which the poor could not afford to buy. So the gap between the rich and poor widened.

(iv) Inspiration of the philosophers: Philosophers like John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu propagated the ideas of having a society where people would enjoy freedom, equal laws and equal opportunities. Their ideas inspired the people of France to realise their dreams.

(v) Role of middle class: The 18th century witnessed the emergence of social groups termed as middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding trade of the manufactured goods, being exported. There were other professionals also like lawyers, administrative officials who were all educated. They believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth.

Q.2. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

OR

Which incident had led to the outbreak of the revolution in France?

Ans. The incidents leading to the outbreak of the revolution were:-

(i) Meeting of the Estates General: On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called for a meeting to propose new taxes. Representatives of all the three estates reached there, but members of the third estate had to stand at the back, as they were not offered any seat. Peasants, artisans and women were denied entry to the assembly.

(ii) Demand for Universal Adult Franchise: Members of the third estate demanded the power for each member to vote. When the King rejected the demand, members of the third estate walked out of the assembly to protest.

(iii) Meeting of the newly formed National Assembly: Since the percentage of the third estate was more, they considered themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. They assembled in an indoor tennis court of Versailles and declared themselves as the 'National Assembly'. They believed in removing the feudal privileges of the nobles and clergy.

(iv) Revolt by peasants: The countryside rumours spread from village to village that their ripe crops would be destroyed by hired bands of lords of manors. Peasants in several districts seized hoes and attacked the residences of their manors. They looted, hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues.

(v) Fall of Bastille prison: During this political turmoil, the French had experienced severe winters leading to bad harvest. It increased the price of bread, which was hoarded in the market. Angry women attacked the shops. At the same time, the King ordered troops to move into Paris. On 14 July 1789, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille prison.

Q.3. Who formed the Jacobin Club? What measures had he taken to remove discrimination in the French society and form a French Republic?

Ans. The Jacobin Club was formed by Maximilian Robespierre. The measures taken or adopted were:

(i) Formation of political clubs: Large sections of the society were convinced that the revolution had to be carried further, as the Constitution of 1791 gave political rights only to the richer sections of the society. Political clubs became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.

(ii) Members of the Jacobin Club: Its members were from less prosperous sections of society. They included small shopkeepers, artisans like shoemakers, pastry cooks, watch-makers and daily wage earners. A large number of members of the Jacobin Club decided to wear long striped trousers, to look apart. They also wore red caps to symbolise freedom.

(iii) All citizens got the right to vote: On the morning of 10 August, 1792, Jacobins stormed the Palace of Tuileries, massacred the King's guards and held the King hostage for several hours. Later, they voted to imprison the royal family. Then the assembly declared that elections would be held to form a government. All men above 21 years of age regardless of wealth got the right to vote.

(iv) Declaration of France as a Republic: The newly elected assembly was called 'Convention'. On 21 September, 1792, it abolished the monarchy and declared France as a Republic. Now people elected their government. There was no hereditary monarchy.

(v) End of Monarchy: Louis XVI was sentenced to death by a court on the charges of betraying his own country. On 21 January, 1793, he was executed publicly at the Place de la Concorde. The queen, Marie Antoinette also met with the same fate.

Q.4. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte? Why was he called a 'liberator'?

Ans. (i) Napoleon Bonaparte was the Emperor of France in 1804, who reintroduced monarchy in France.

(ii) He conquered his neighbouring countries and created kingdoms, where he placed his own family members.

(iii) He was called a moderniser of Europe. He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.

(iv) Initially, many people believed that Napoleon was a liberator who would bring freedom for the people.

(v) But soon his army was viewed as an invading force. So, he was finally defeated in 1815, in the famous 'Battle of Waterloo'.

(vi) 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.

Q.5. How did the fall of Bastille prison become the immediate cause of French Revolution?

Ans. On the morning of 14th July, 1789, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The king ordered his troops to move into the city. Rumours spread that he would soon order the army to open fire upon the citizens. Some 7,000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a people's militia. A group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille. In the

armed fight, the commander of Bastille was killed and prisoners released. Since the Bastille stood for the despotic power of the king, it led people towards the success of French Revolution.

Q.6. How can you say that Louis XVI was a despotic ruler?

Ans. Louis XVI of Bourbon dynasty, ascended the throne in 1774. He was married to Austrian princess Marie Antoinette. When he became ruler, he 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. Louis XVI also helped American armies in their war of independence, which led to further rise to more than 2 billion livres debt. To meet its regular expenses, the state was forced to increase taxes. Nobles, clergy were exempted from paying taxes, it was the third estate which bore the brunt.

Q.7. What does subsistence crisis mean? What led to subsistence crisis in France?

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

The demand for foodgrains was increased as population had increased in France from 23 million to 28 million. 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 subsistence crisis, something that occurred frequently in France during the Old Regime.

Q.8. What was the role of middle classes in ending the privileges?

Ans. In the past, peasants and workers had participated in the revolts against increasing taxes and food scarcity. But they could not change the social and economic order. This was left to those groups within the Third Estate who had become prosperous and had access to education and new ideas. The 18th century witnessed the emergence of social groups termed as middle class who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from manufacturing goods and exporting them. In addition to merchants and manufacturers, the Third estate included professions such as that of 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.

Q.9. Who represented the National Assembly on 5th May 1789?

Ans. On 5th May, 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes. A resplendent hall in Versailles was prepared to host the delegates. 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.

Q.10. How was National Assembly recognised?

Ans. Louis XVI faced with the power of French people's revolting subjects, who 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 4th 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.

Q.11. What was Marseillaise? What led to the formation of Marseillaise?

Ans. Marseillaise was a patriotic song composed by poet Roget de L' Isle.

Although Louis XVI signed the constitution, he entered into secret negotiations with the King of Prussia. Rulers of the 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, and declared war against Prussia and Austria. Thousands of volunteers thronged from the provinces to join the army. They saw this as a war of the people against kings and aristocracies all over Europe. So Marseillaise was sung for the first time by the volunteers from Marseilles as they marched into Paris and so got its name. The Marseillaise is now the national anthem of France.

Q.12. What led to subsistence crisis in France?

Ans.

- 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 of the workers were employed as labourers in workshops, whose owners fixed their wages. But wages did not keep pace with the rise in the prices. So the gap between rich and poor widened.
- Things became worse whenever draught or hail reduced the harvest. This led to the subsistence crisis, something that occurred frequently in France during the old regime.

Q.13. Why do you think that a growing middle class in France envisaged an end to the privileges?

Ans.

- In the past, peasants and workers had participated in revolts against increasing taxes and food scarcity.
- But they lacked the means and programmes to carry out full-scale measures that would bring about a change in the social and economic order.
- The 18th century witnessed the emergence of social groups termed as 'Middle Class', who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods, such as woollen and silk textiles that were either exported or bought by the richer members of the society.
- In addition to the merchants and manufacturers, the third estate included professionals such as lawyers or administrative officers.
- All of these were educated and believed that no group in the 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, were put forward by philosophers.

Q.14. What do you know about triangular slave trade? What legislative measures were taken to end slavery in French colonies?

Ans. Reluctance of Europeans to go and work in distant and unfamiliar lands meant a shortage of labour on the plantations. So this was met by a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and the America.

The exploitation of slave labour made it possible to meet the growing demand in European markets for sugar, coffee and indigo.

Legislative Measures:

- Throughout the 18th century, there was a little criticism of slavery in France.
- The National Assembly held long debates about whether the rights of man should be extended to all French subjects, including those in the colonies. But it did not pass any laws, fearing opposition from businessmen whose incomes depended on the 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.
- Plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave African Negroes in pursuit of their economic interests.
- Slavery was finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

Q.15. What types of freedoms were granted to the citizens of France after French Revolution?

Ans.

- One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship.
- In the old regime, all written material and cultural activities—books, newspapers, plays—could be published or performed only after they had been approved by the censors of the king.
- Now the declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
- Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where they travelled rapidly into the countryside. They all described and discussed the events and changes taking place in France.
- Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed. Each side sought to convince the others of its position through the medium of print.
- This was one way they would grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice. Political philosophers wrote these texts in length, which only a handful of educated people could read.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How was the taxation policy responsible for the French Revolution?

Ans. (i) The French were divided into three estates—First, Second and Third estates respectively.

(ii) First and Second estates which formed 10 per cent of the total population were clergy and nobles. They enjoyed all privileges.

(iii) Rest of the 90 percent population of the third estate paid all kinds of direct or indirect taxes, member of Third estate believe that no group in society should be privileged by birth.

Q.2. What were the causes for the empty treasury of France under Louis XVI? Assess any three causes.

Ans. (i) When Louis XVI became king the treasury of France was empty as most of the French kings were involved in wars which emptied their treasury.

(ii) Louis, XVI and wife Mari Antoinette were also extragrant and spent a lot of money of treasury for herself only.

(iii) France fought a lot of war while supporting American colonies in their war of independence against G. Britain. This also added to the cause for the empty treasury.

Q.3. 'While the National Assembly' was busy at Versailles drafting constitution, the rest of France seethed with turmoil. State the statement whether this is true or false.

Explain.

Ans. • It is true as when National Assembly was busy in drafting constitution rest of France was in turmoil.

• Due to bad harvest in winter, prices of bread rose to that level that common people could not afford to buy.

• People started hoarding supplies, therefore women who were standing in long queues in bakery, crowds of angry women, stormed into the shops and looted the bread.

Q.4. Explain any five features of the constitution of 1791, framed by the National Assembly in France.

Ans. The five features of constitution of France are:

(i) Constitutional Monarchy: The constitution made France a constitutional monarchy. In this system, monarch would remain monarch but all legislative powers would be transferred to the National Assembly.

(ii) National Assembly: It was indirectly elected. In it, citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the assembly. Once chosen, National Assembly would keep a control on the country.

(iii) Right to Vote: However, not all citizens 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. Only active citizens were entitled to vote.

(iv) Powers of National Assembly: National Assembly had the power to make laws. It is voted by about 50,000 electors and constituted of 745 members. It could keep control on both king and the ministers.

(v) Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens: The constitution began with the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens. Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as natural and inalienable rights.

Q.5. Why was Robespierre Guillotined?

OR

What was Guillotine? How was it used?

Ans. Robespierre introduced Reign of Terror when he followed the policy of severe control and punishment in France.

(i) Guillotine was a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person is beheaded. It was named after Dr. Guillotine, who invented it.

(ii) Robespierre was convicted by the court in July 1794, arrested and on the next day sent to the guillotine and killed in the same manner he punished guilty people.

Q.6. "One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery in the French Colonies. Justify the statement.

Ans. • The Jacobin club was formed by Maximilian Robespierre:

- Slave trade was already existing in France from 17th century.
- French merchants also sailed to the African coast to buy slaves from their local chieftains.

- Its members were from less prosperous sections of society. A large number of members of the Jacobin club decided to wear long striped trousers to look apart and also wore red caps to symbolize liberty.
- When Jacobins came to power, Monarchy was abolished and National Assembly was formed.
- They passed a law in 1794 to free all the slaves in the French colonies.