

Date:-23/06/20.

History

French Revolution

Question 1.

Trace the event which led to the fall of Bastille.

Answer:

- On 20th June the representatives of the Third Estate assembled in the hall.
- While the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting a constitution,
- After spending 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.
- On 14 July, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille.

Question 2.

Write three main features of the French Constitution of 1791.

Answer:

- Powers of the National Assembly: 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.

- **Right to Vote:** 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.
- **Basic Rights:** All the citizens were given some basic rights such as right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law. It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights.

Question 3.

What was the significance of 'The Tennis Court Oath' in the French Revolution?

Answer:

- The Tennis Court Oath was a significant event in the French revolution. The Oath was taken on 20th June in the hall of an indoor court in the grounds of Versailles.
- The members declared themselves as the National Assembly and swore not to disperse till they had drafted a Constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.
- The National Assembly drafted the new Constitution which laid the foundation of Republic of France.

Question 4.

What was the Convention? Describe its role in France.

Answer:

The elected assembly formed in France in 1792 was called Convention.

Role in France :

- It abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

- Hereditary monarch Louis XVI and his wife were sentenced to death Robespierre was elected President of the National Convention. He followed the policy of severe control and punishment. The French Revolution 19

Question 5.

Describe how abolition of slavery became possible in France.

Answer:

Abolition of slavery became possible in France by the following ways :

- The slave trade began in the 18th century. The National Assembly held long debates about the rights of man should be extended to all French subjects including those in the colonies.
- Convention legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions. .
- However, Napoleon reintroduced slavery. Finally slavery was abolished in 1848.

Question 6.

Discuss the impact of abolition of censorship in France.

Or

Describe the effects of abolition of law of censorship on France.

Answer:

- France before 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.

- Freedom of Speech: 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.
- Debate and Discussion: 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. Printed tracts and newspapers not only spread the new ideas, but they shaped the nature of debate. 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.

Question 7.

Trace rights which we are enjoying today had origin in the French Revolution.

Answer:

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

- The right to equality.
- The right to freedom of speech and expression.
- The right to freedom from exploitation.
- The right to constitutional remedies.

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