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History

## French Revolution

Question 1.

How did philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France?

Answer:

Philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France as :

- Major changes were introduced in the Russian economy and agriculture after the revolution. Private property was abolished and land became a state property. Peasants had the freedom to cultivate on state " – controlled land.
- A proper system of centralized planning was introduced with the help of five year plans. It helped in bringing about technological improvements, economic growth and helped in removing the inequalities in the society.
- The revolution acknowledged right to work and identified dignity of labour. Socialist economy added a new dimension to democracy, by attributing it as a socio-economic system.

Question 2.

What was the role of philosophers and thinkers in the French Revolution? Explain by giving three examples.

Answer:

- The philosophers and thinkers believed that, no group in a society should be privileged by birth. They supported a society based on freedom and equal laws.

- In his Two Treatises. Of government, John 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.

Question 3.

What measures were taken by Robespierre to bring equality in the French Society? HOTS

Answer:

Measures are :

- Robespierre government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices.
- Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.
- The use of more expensive white flour was forbidden; all citizens were required to eat the quality bread, a loaf made of whole wheat.
- Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.
- Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.
- Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.

Question 4.

How did the peasants contribute to the outbreak of the French Revolution? Explain. HOTS

Answer:

Contribution of the peasants to the outbreak of the French Revolution :

- The peasants had to pay various taxes to the government, to the nobles and to the Church.
- They were subjected to forced labour, they had to work free in the land of the nobles for three days in a week.
- Crops were trampled by hunting parties of the nobles. About 81% of their income went to the State, Nobles, Church, 19% of the income was their to live on grass and roofs and 1,000 peoples of them died due to starvation. As whole, the Administration was corrupt.

Question 5.

State the events that led to the formation of the National Assembly.

Answer:

- The Estates General was a political body of France to which the three estates sent their representatives. The voting in it had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote.
- This time too when Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General, he decided to continue the same old practice.
- But the members of the Third Estate demanded that voting now be conducted on the democratic principle of one person, one vote.

- When the king rejected this proposal, the members of the Third Estate walked out of the assembly in protest.
- They assembled on 20 June, 1789 in the hall of an indoor tennis court in Versailles. These representatives of the Third Estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for whole French nation. They declared themselves a National Assembly.

**Mr. Anant kumar**