



## The French Revolution

Q1. How did peasants contribute to the outbreak of French Revolution?

Ans. Peasants contribute to the outbreak of French Revolution

- i. A severe winter had meant a bad harvest; the price of bread rose, often bakers exploited the situation and hoarded supplies. On 14 July, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille.
- ii. In the countryside, rumours spread from village to village that the lords of the manor had hired bands of brigands who were on their way to destroy the ripe crops.
- iii. Caught in a frenzy of fear, peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked chateaux. They looted hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues.

Q2. Describe the incident which took place in the morning of 14 July 1789.

Ans. On the morning of 14 July 1789, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The king had commanded 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. They broke into a number of government buildings in search of arms. Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress-prison, the Bastille, where they hoped to find hoarded ammunition. In the armed fight that followed, the commander of the Bastille was killed and the prisoners released though there were only seven of them.