

Name: _____ Date: _____

The French Revolution

Q1. Give the reason for the walk out from the Assembly of Estate General by the members of Third Estate on 5th May 1789. What were the two steps taken by the members of Third Estate after walk out?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France?

Ans. _____

The French Revolution

Q1. Give the reason for the walk out from the Assembly of Estate General by the members of Third Estate on 5th May 1789. What were the two steps taken by the members of Third Estate after walk out?

Ans. Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote. This time too Louis XVI was determined to continue the same practice. But members of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote. When the king rejected this proposal, members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

The representatives of the third estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. On 20 June they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles. They declared themselves a National Assembly and swore not to disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.

Q2. How did philosophers influence the thinking of the people of France?

Ans. Role of philosophers in French Revolution

i. In his Two Treatises of Government, Locke sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch.

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

iii. In The Spirit of the Laws, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

iv. The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers. These were frequently read aloud in groups for the benefit of those who could not read and write.