

Name: _____ Date: _____

The French Revolution

Q1. The inequality that existed in the French society in the Old Regime became the cause of French Revolution". Justify the statement by giving three suitable examples.

Ans. _____

Q2. How was revolution brought about in everyday life of French people? Explain.

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The French Revolution

Q1. The inequality that existed in the French society in the Old Regime became the cause of French Revolution". Justify the statement by giving three suitable examples.

Ans. There was too much of inequality in French society.

i. French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, and only members of the third estate paid taxes.

ii. Peasants made up about 90 per cent of the population. However, only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated. About 60 per cent of the land was owned by nobles, the Church and other richer members of the third estate.

iii. The members of the first two estates, that is, the clergy and the nobility, enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these was exemption from paying taxes to the state. The nobles further enjoyed feudal privileges.

Thus the members of the Third Estate groaned under heavy taxation with no privileges. This led to a deep sense of resentment among the members of the Third Estate and the people revolted against the cruel regime of monarchy.

Q2. How was revolution brought about in everyday life of French people? Explain.

Ans. A revolution brought about in everyday life of French people in the following ways:

i. One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship.

ii. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.

iii. 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.

iv. Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed.

v. 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 that political philosophers wrote about.