

Ch 2 Liberty Equality Fraternity Textbook Question and Answers

Questions and Answers

1. **Analyse and list down the reasons as to why the rulers of France became unpopular.**

Answer: The rulers of France, particularly the Bourbon kings, became unpopular due to several reasons:

- **Despotic Rule:** Kings like Louis XIV and Louis XVI believed in the Divine Right Theory, claiming absolute authority, which alienated the people.
- **Extravagance:** Louis XV's corruption and continuous wars drained state funds, while Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette's lavish spending, especially Marie's interference in governance, angered the public.
- **Neglect of Governance:** Louis XVI relied on ministers, ignoring public grievances and economic crises.
- **Tax Burden:** Heavy taxes, like the *Vingtième*, were imposed on the Third Estate, while the clergy and nobles were exempt, causing resentment.
- **Economic Crisis:** Rising bread prices and unemployment due to British imports worsened public misery, fueling discontent against the monarchy.

2. **Analyse the social system in 18th century France and prepare a note.**

Answer: The 18th-century French social system was deeply unequal, divided into three estates:

- **First Estate (Clergy):** The Catholic Church owned vast lands, was exempt from taxes, and collected a *tithe* (1/10th of produce) from peasants, leading to resentment.
- **Second Estate (Nobles):** Nobles held high government and army positions, owned land, and were exempt from taxes. They imposed feudal dues like *Corvée* (unpaid labor), *Banalité* (wine tax), and *Péage* (toll tax) on peasants.
- **Third Estate (Commons):** Comprising the middle class, workers, and peasants, they formed the majority but lived in poverty. They paid taxes to the king, church, and nobles, and performed unpaid services like military duty and public works. This unequal system, where the Third Estate bore the burden while the upper estates enjoyed privileges, created widespread discontent, paving the way for the French Revolution.

3. **The rise and discontent of the middle class decisively influenced the French revolution. Evaluate.**

Answer: The rise and discontent of the middle class were crucial in sparking the French Revolution. The middle class, including industrialists, doctors, lawyers, and bankers, emerged due to growth in agriculture, industry, and trade in the 18th century. They became wealthy through domestic and colonial trade, controlling major ports and cities. However, despite their education and economic success, they were denied political power and high positions in government and the army, which were reserved for nobles. Like the Third Estate, they paid heavy taxes, such as the *Vingtième*, while the clergy and nobles were exempt. This inequality fueled their resentment. Historians Will and Ariel Durant noted that

the middle class used the discontent of peasants and urban masses to overthrow the nobility and clergy, ending feudalism. Their financial support and intellectual leadership, inspired by Enlightenment thinkers like Rousseau and Voltaire, drove revolutionary actions like the Tennis Court Oath and the formation of the National Assembly. Thus, the middle class's rise and grievances were decisive in shaping the revolution's course.

4. **Complete the given diagram by identifying the features of 18th century French society.**

Answer:

- **King:** Believed in Divine Right, absolute ruler, unaccountable to people.
- **Clergy:** Owned vast lands, exempt from taxes, collected *tithe* from peasants.
- **Nobles:** Held high positions, exempt from taxes, imposed feudal dues like *Corvée* and *Banalité*.
- **Commons:** Paid taxes to king, church, and nobles; performed unpaid services; lived in poverty.

5. **The Estates General was the cross-section of the French society. Substantiate.**

Answer: The Estates General, convened in 1789, mirrored the unequal structure of French society. It was divided into three estates, reflecting the social hierarchy:

- **First Estate (Clergy):** Had 285 members, representing a small, privileged group with tax exemptions and vast land ownership.
- **Second Estate (Nobles):** Had 308 members, also a minority, holding high positions and tax privileges.
- **Third Estate (Commons):** Had 621 elected members, representing the majority (middle class, workers, peasants) who bore the tax burden and lacked political power.

The voting system, one vote per estate, allowed the clergy and nobles to dominate, despite the Third Estate's larger representation. This inequality in the Estates General reflected the broader social disparities, where the Third Estate's grievances were ignored, leading to their declaration as the National Assembly and the revolution's outbreak.

6. **Discuss how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights influenced the reforms of the National Assembly.**

Answer: The **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)**, a key outcome of the French Revolution, significantly shaped the National Assembly's reforms. It proclaimed that "men are born and remain free and equal in rights," emphasizing liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression. It established that sovereignty resides in the nation, not the king, and that laws should protect society. These principles guided the National Assembly's actions:

- **Social Reforms:** Abolished feudalism, ending noble privileges and taxes like *Corvée*.
- **Economic Reforms:** Introduced the *Assignat* currency and the metric system for uniformity.

- **Political Reforms:** Implemented a unified constitution, ensuring equal rights nationwide.
- **Religious Reforms:** Declared religious tolerance, made clergy salaried state employees, and confiscated church lands.
The Declaration's focus on equality inspired the abolition of slavery and noble exemptions, while its emphasis on liberty led to freedom of expression and resistance to despotism. These reforms transformed France into a more equitable society, influencing global human rights movements.

7. **Analyse the consequences of the French Revolution and prepare a note.**

Answer: The French Revolution (1789–1799) had profound consequences:

- **End of Feudalism:** Noble and church privileges were abolished, and their lands were confiscated and redistributed to the middle class, ending feudal dues like *Banalité*.
- **Modern Nationalism:** The revolution redefined a nation as its people, not the monarchy, through the Declaration of the Rights of Man. This inspired independence struggles in Asia and Africa.
- **Democratic Governance:** Rousseau's idea of popular sovereignty laid the foundation for democratic rule, influencing modern governance systems.
- **Economic Reforms:** The metric system standardized weights and measures, and the *Assignat* was introduced, though it later failed due to inflation.
- **Social Equality:** Slavery was abolished, and religious tolerance was declared, promoting equality.
- **Global Impact:** The revolution's ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity influenced figures like Tipu Sultan, who planted the Tree of Liberty in Srirangapatnam, and later freedom movements worldwide.
Despite challenges like the Reign of Terror, the revolution dismantled the old regime, creating a modern France and leaving a lasting legacy of human rights and nationalism.

8. **Napoleon's administrative reforms laid the foundation of modern France. Discuss this statement and prepare a note.**

Answer: Napoleon Bonaparte's administrative reforms modernized France, creating a strong foundation for its development:

- **Legal Reforms:** The **Napoleonic Code** abolished feudal laws, ensured equality before the law, and recognized religious freedom, becoming a model for global legal systems.
- **Religious Reforms:** The **Concordat** with the Pope restored the Catholic Church's status while granting freedom to other religions, fostering tolerance.
- **Educational Reforms:** Universal education was introduced through *lycees* and the **University of France**, producing skilled citizens for government and military roles.

- **Economic Reforms:** The **Bank of France** and a unified currency system stabilized the economy after the *Assignat*'s failure.
- **Military Reforms:** The army was reorganized into battalions, enhancing efficiency. These reforms centralized administration, reduced corruption, and promoted equality and education, laying the groundwork for modern France. However, Napoleon's wars, like the failed **Continental System**, led to his defeat at Waterloo (1815). Despite this, his reforms influenced France's bureaucracy, legal system, and national identity, shaping a modern state that balanced revolutionary ideals with practical governance.

Activities and Answers

1. **Look at the map 2.1 and locate France. Identify and mark the neighbouring states of France.**

Answer: France is located in Western Europe. Its neighboring states in 1789 include:

- **Spain** (to the southwest)
- **Switzerland** (to the east)
- **German States** (to the northeast, part of the Holy Roman Empire)
- **Austria** (to the east, controlling regions like the Austrian Netherlands)
- **Sardinia** (to the southeast, including Savoy)
- **Great Britain** (across the English Channel to the north).

Note: For exams, students should practice sketching a simple map of Europe, marking France and labeling these neighbors.

2. **Prepare a pictorial chart showing famous French philosophers and highlighting their ideas.**

Answer: Pictorial Chart Description:

Create a chart with images (or sketches) of philosophers and their key ideas:

- **Voltaire:**
 - **Image:** Sketch of a man with a quill, writing.
 - **Idea:** Criticized clergy corruption, advocated free thought. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."
- **Rousseau:**
 - **Image:** Man holding a book titled *The Social Contract*.
 - **Idea:** Sovereignty lies with the people; king's rule is a contract. "Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains."
- **Montesquieu:**
 - **Image:** Man with a scale, symbolizing balance of powers.

- **Idea:** Separation of powers into legislative, executive, and judicial. *The Spirit of Laws*.
 - **Physiocrats (Turgot, Necker):**
 - **Image:** Men with economic charts.
 - **Idea:** Promoted free trade and agricultural reforms.
Presentation: Use a poster with columns for names, images, and ideas. For exams, write a paragraph summarizing each philosopher's contribution.
3. **Prepare a script about the Tennis Court Oath and present it as a skit in the class.**
Answer: Skit Script: The Tennis Court Oath (June 20, 1789)
Characters: Jean-Sylvian Bailly (Leader), Abbé Sieyès, Mirabeau, Third Estate Members, Royal Guard.
Setting: A tennis court near Versailles, with chairs arranged as a makeshift assembly.
Script:
- **Narrator:** In 1789, France faces crisis. The Third Estate, representing the common people, is locked out of the Estates General by Louis XVI.
 - **Royal Guard:** (Blocks door) By the king's order, you cannot enter!
 - **Bailly:** Brothers, we represent the people! Let us meet at the tennis court nearby!
 - **Sieyès:** (Holding a paper) We are the true National Assembly, as the nation's sovereignty lies with us, not the king!
 - **Mirabeau:** (Raising fist) We will not leave until we draft a constitution for France!
 - **All Members:** (In unison) We swear the Tennis Court Oath! Liberty, equality, fraternity!
 - **Narrator:** This oath united the Third Estate, sparking the French Revolution.
Props: Paper for oath, chairs, a tennis racket to symbolize the court.
For Exams: Summarize the event's significance in 100 words, noting it challenged royal authority and led to the National Assembly.
4. **Look at Map 2.2 and list the places where Napoleon Bonaparte established his dominion.**
Answer: Napoleon established his dominion in:
- **France** (core territory)
 - **Italy** (including the Kingdom of Italy and Cisalpine Republic)
 - **Spain** (under his brother Joseph Bonaparte's rule)
 - **Netherlands** (Holland, annexed to France)
 - **Germany** (Confederation of the Rhine)
 - **Austria** (controlled territories like Illyrian Provinces)
 - **Poland** (Duchy of Warsaw)

- **Switzerland** (parts under French influence).

Note: For exams, practice listing these regions and sketching a map to mark them.

5. **Create a digital presentation which includes descriptions of the major events of the French Revolution.**

Answer: Digital Presentation Outline:

Title: Major Events of the French Revolution (1789–1799)

- **Slide 1: Introduction** – Overview of the revolution as a movement against despotism, led by liberty, equality.
- **Slide 2: Tennis Court Oath (June 20, 1789)** – Third Estate declares National Assembly, vows to draft constitution. Image: Tennis court sketch.
- **Slide 3: Fall of Bastille (July 14, 1789)** – Crowds storm Bastille, revolution begins. Image: Bastille fortress.
- **Slide 4: Women's March to Versailles (October 1789)** – Women protest food shortages, force royal family to Paris. Image: Women with brooms.
- **Slide 5: Reign of Terror (1792–1794)** – Jacobins execute traitors via guillotine. Image: Guillotine sketch.
- **Slide 6: Napoleon's Rise (1799)** – Overthrows Directory, becomes First Consul. Image: Napoleon portrait sketch.
- **Slide 7: Conclusion** – Legacy of revolution: end of feudalism, rise of nationalism.
Tools: Use PowerPoint or Google Slides, with images, and brief text (50 words/slide).
For Exams: Write a 150-word summary of key events, emphasizing their impact.

6. **Evaluate how the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen influenced later freedom struggles.**

Answer: The **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)** was a cornerstone of the French Revolution, proclaiming universal principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity. It stated that “men are born and remain free and equal in rights,” inspiring later freedom struggles globally:

- **American Revolutions:** The Declaration influenced Latin American independence movements, as leaders like Simón Bolívar sought equality and sovereignty.
- **Asian and African Struggles:** The idea of national sovereignty inspired anti-colonial movements, such as India's fight against British rule.
- **Tipu Sultan's Resistance:** In Mysore, Tipu Sultan planted the Tree of Liberty, symbolizing his opposition to British colonialism, drawing from the Declaration's ideals.

- **Human Rights Movements:** The Declaration's emphasis on liberty and equality shaped modern human rights frameworks, influencing struggles for gender and racial equality.

By promoting popular sovereignty and universal rights, the Declaration provided a

blueprint for challenging oppression, leaving a lasting impact on global freedom movements.

7. **Prepare a digital presentation that includes the timeline of the French Revolution, the leaders of each phase of the revolution, and their ideas, and then present it in the class.**

Answer: Digital Presentation Outline:

Title: Timeline and Leaders of the French Revolution

- **Slide 1: Introduction** – French Revolution (1789–1799) as a fight for liberty, equality, fraternity.
- **Slide 2: 1789 – Estates General and Tennis Court Oath**
 - **Event:** Third Estate forms National Assembly, takes oath.
 - **Leaders:** Bailly, Siey s, Mirabeau.
 - **Idea:** Popular sovereignty (Rousseau’s influence).
- **Slide 3: 1789 – Fall of Bastille**
 - **Event:** Crowds storm Bastille, revolution begins.
 - **Leaders:** Common people, inspired by Necker.
 - **Idea:** End of despotism.
- **Slide 4: 1789 – Women’s March**
 - **Event:** Women force royal family to Paris.
 - **Leaders:** Olympia de Gouche, Jeanne Rolland.
 - **Idea:** Gender equality, public welfare.
- **Slide 5: 1792–1794 – Reign of Terror**
 - **Event:** Jacobins execute traitors.
 - **Leaders:** Robespierre, Danton, Marat.
 - **Idea:** Republic’s safety over individual rights.
- **Slide 6: 1799 – Napoleon’s Rise**
 - **Event:** Napoleon becomes First Consul.
 - **Leader:** Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - **Idea:** Centralized governance, equality (Napoleonic Code).
- **Slide 7: Conclusion** – Legacy of leaders’ ideas in modern democracy.
Tools: Use Canva or PowerPoint, with timeline graphics and leader images sketches.
For Exams: Write a 200-word summary of the timeline and key leaders’ contributions.