

# CSS-1991

**Q.1: Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:**

Generally, European trains still stop at borders to change locomotives and staff. This is often necessary. The German and French voltage systems are incompatible. Spain—though not Portugal—has a broad-gauge track. English bridges are lower than elsewhere, and passengers on German trains would need a ladder to reach French platforms, twice as high as their own. But those physical constraints pale in comparison to an even more formidable barrier—national chauvinism. While officials in Brussels strive for an integrated and efficiently run rail network to relieve the Continent's gorged roads and airways, and cut down on pollution, three member countries—France, Germany and Italy—are working feverishly to develop their own expensive and mutually incompatible high-speed trains.

## Different railway systems of Europe

The railway systems are different in the various countries of Europe because of their tracks, electric systems and height of bridges. The feeling of national pride is perhaps the greatest obstacle in establishing efficient continental railways. Brussel is introducing the new system. Besides, the other countries are following the same pattern by introducing modern trains.

Total words: 119

Required words: 40

Given words: 55

## Passage 2011

Q01: In what ways does the author suggest that the American Revolution was easier to complete than the French Revolution?

Ans: The American Revolution had much brighter prospects of success as compared to the French Revolution because of the following reasons:

- The whole American nation was united and had only one aim i.e., to get freedom from the English.
- There was no outside interference.
- There was no sympathy for the King among the American people.

Q02: Of the challenges mentioned facing the French revolutionaries, which do you think had the greatest impact on their inability to complete a successful revolution? Why?

Ans: The prime reason for the failure of the French Revolution was disunity among the French people and the opposition to the Revolution by the neighboring countries.

Q03: Of the strengths mentioned aiding the American Revolution, which do you think had the greatest impact on inability to complete a successful revolution? Why?

Ans: The biggest factor for the success of the American Revolution was that the whole nation was determined to get freedom and their glorious struggle to achieve their aim.

Q04: Why and how did the Reign of Terror happen?

Ans: The reign of Terror <sup>was</sup> happened due to disunity among nations. Attack from the neighbouring countries. In spite of revolution, two new states became independent.

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language.

In the height of the Enlightenment, men influenced by the new political theories of the era launched two of the largest revolutions in history. These two conflicts, on two separate continents, were both initially successful in forming new forms of government. And yet, the two conflicts, though merely a decade apart, had radically different conclusions. How do two wars inspired by more or less the same ideals end up so completely different? Why was the American Revolution largely a success and the French Revolution largely a failure? Historians have

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pointed to myriad reasons - far too various to be listed here. However, the most frequently cited are worth mentioning. For one, the American Revolution was far removed from the Old World; that is, since it was on a different continent, other European nations did not attempt to interfere with it.

However, in the French Revolution, there were immediate cries for war from neighboring nations. Early on, for instance, the ousted king attempted to flee to neighboring Austria and the army waiting there. The newly formed French Republic also warred with Belgium, and a conflict with Britain loomed. Thus, the French had the burden not only of winning a revolution but also defending it from outside. The American simply had to win a revolution.

Secondly, the American Revolution seemed to have a better chance of success from the get-go, due to the fact the Americans already saw themselves as something other than British subjects. Thus, there was already a uniquely American character, so, there was not as loud a cry to preserve the British way of life. In France, several thousands of people still supported the king, largely because the king was seen as an essential part of French life. And when the king was first ousted and then killed, some believed that character itself was corrupted. Remember, the Americans did not oust a king or kill him - they merely separated from him.

Finally, there is a general agreement that the French were not as unified as the Americans, who, for the most part, put aside their political differences until after they had already formed a new nation. The French, despite their Tennis Court Oath, could not do so. Infighting led to inner turmoil, civil war, and eventually the Reign of Terror, in which political dissidents were executed in large numbers. Additionally, the French people themselves were not unified. The nation had so much stratification that it was impossible to unite all of them - the workers, the peasants, the middle-class, the nobles, the clergy - into one cause. And the attempts to do so under a new religion, the Divine Cult of Reason, certainly did not help. The Americans, remember, never attempted to change the society at large; rather, they merely attempted to change the government.

(i) Why and how did the Reign of Terror happen?

(ii) In what ways does the author suggest that the American Revolution was easier to complete than the French Revolution?

(iii) Of the challenges mentioned facing the French revolutionaries, which do you think had the greatest impact on their inability to complete a successful revolution? Why?

(iv) Of the strengths mentioned aiding the American revolutionaries, which do you think had the greatest impact on their ability to complete a successful revolution? Why?