

be crossed.

(vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the attempted question will not be considered.

## **PART-II**

### **SECTION-I**

**Q. No. 2.** The connection between the ideas of French Philosophers and the revolution was indirect and remote. The philosophers did not preach revolution rather they undermined the faith of people in the old order. Discuss. **(20)**

The connection between the ideas of French philosophers and the revolution was indirect and remote.

## Introduction:

The French revolution was inspired by the ideas of Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, and Diderot. However, the connection between the Philosophers and the revolution was indirect and remote. These enlightened ideas were spread through books, pamphlets and speeches not directly by the philosophers. The philosophers did not preach revolution rather they undermined the faith of people in the old order by challenging divine rights, criticizing the church and nobility, popularizing the ideas of popular sovereignty and advocating for free press and religious tolerance.

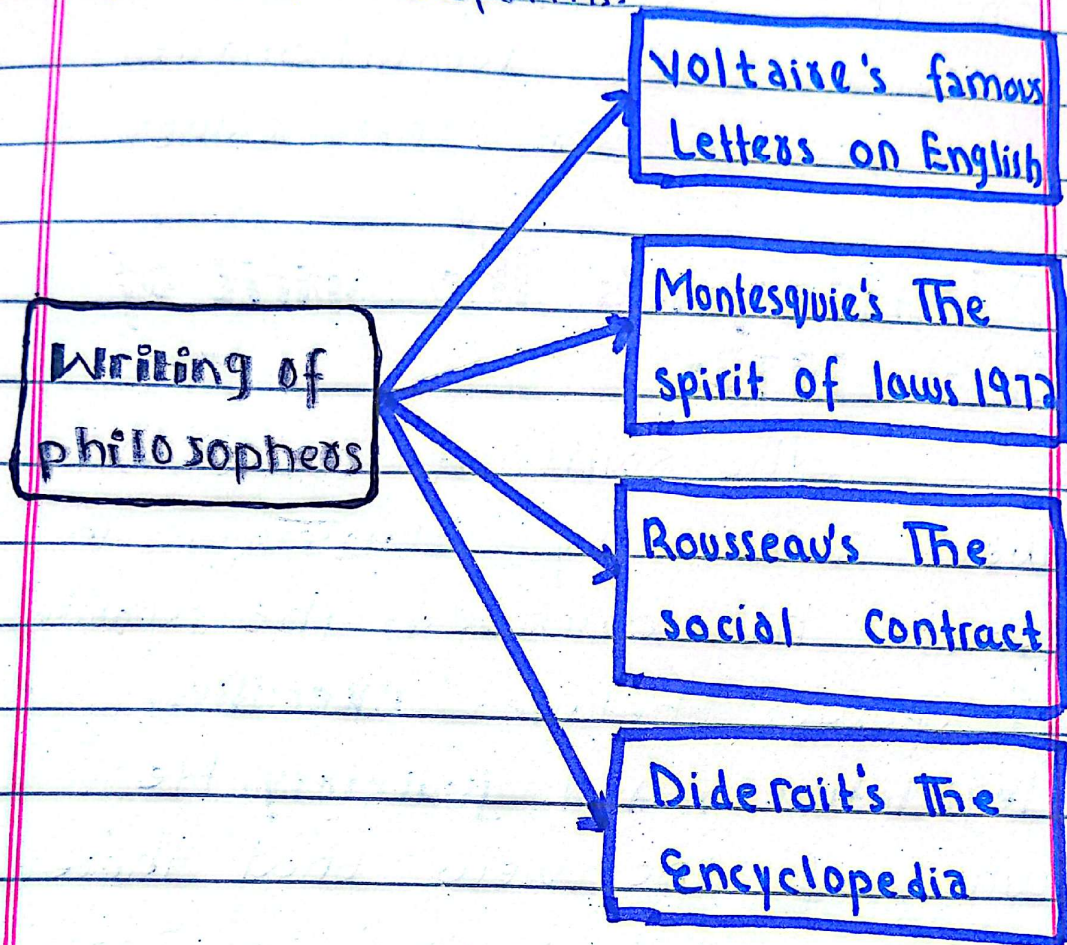
## **(I) Background of the French Society during 1789:**

During the 1780s, people were forced to pay direct and indirect taxes. Bourgeoisie despite having the education and wealth were deprived of political and economic decision-making. On the religious matters, there was the monopoly of catholic church. The king claimed his divine right to rule the people. Nobility was highly privileged and higher rankings were granted to their belongings.

## **(II) Ideas of French philosophers and people - Indirect and remote connection:**

French philosophers were critical of the absolute monarchy, Church monopoly, and privileged nobility. They started

criticizing them through their writings which also inspired the people of France to demand reforms.



## i) Voltaire's famous letters on English:

Voltaire writes his famous letters on English in which he promoted the England freedom of press and religious tolerance. In his another writings

praised trial by jury and absence of privileged nobility of French type in England.

In this way his writings influence the revolutionaries to demand for these causes.

## ii) Montesquieu's The spirit of Laws 1972:

The spirit of laws (1972) was written by Montesquieu in which he described the separation of power between **executive**, **legislature**, and **judiciary**. He was of the view that there should be monarchy in France but with some checks and balances upon it. His ideas greatly inspired the people of French society.

## iii) Rousseau's The social contract:

The social contract was

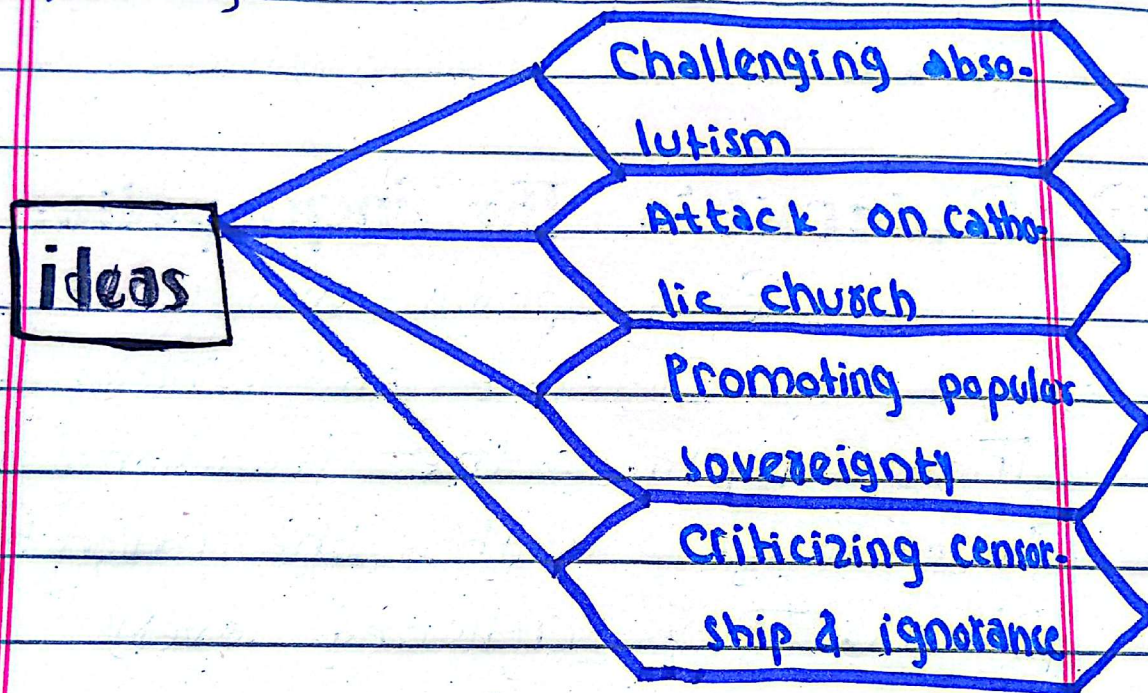
the significant achievement of Rousseau. In his writings he described the democratic form of governance with his famous line: "The government of the people, by the people, for the people." In his point of view, people themselves choose their representative.

#### iv) Diderot's The Encyclopedia:

Encyclopedia was written by the Diderot and D'Alembert. They replace the traditional knowledge with the rational ideas. They criticized every evil in the French society that were criticized by the Rousseau, Voltaire and the Montesquiers. This was significant contribution of French philosophers in educating the people about their rights.

### (III) French philosophers undermining faith of people in old order through their writings:

French philosophers did not preach revolution, rather they undermine faith of people in old order through their writings.



#### i) Challenging absolutism by describing division of power:

Montesquieu challenged the divine rights of kings to rule. Rather, he made people believe that power should be

divided among different lies of society. There should be constitutional monarchy in place of absolute monarchy.

## **ii) Attack on Catholic Church - promoting religious tolerance:**

The most bitter attack that Voltaire did was on the monopoly of Catholic Church and privileged nobility. Through his writings, he promoted religious tolerance among the people. He infused the people that there is nothing like privileged nobility.

## **iii) Promoting popular sovereignty - Democratic form of governance:**

(Montesquieu) Rousseau promoted the notion of popular sovereignty among the people.

of France. He asserted that there should be contract between the government and the people. The govt. should held responsible for fulfilling interest of the people. But if the govt. fails to do so, people should break this contract and elect the other representative.

#### iv) Criticizing Censorship and ignorance by preaching rational ideas:

The Encyclopedia of Diderot and D'Alembert spread rational ideas in the society. They criticized the censorship by asserting that freedom of speech is fundamental rights of citizens. They termed the people belief in the monarch and catholic church as ignorance.

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## Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that the connection between the ideas of French philosophers and the revolution was not direct. They did not preach revolution rather they undermined the faith of people in old order and demanded reforms.