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OB-069

European History

QNo:1

French Revolutions:  
Its causes & consequences

Answer

Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Causes
  - Partiality
  - Power administration
  - Poor justification / judiciary
  - Lack of basic rights
  - Powers to clergies and nobles
  - Inhuman treatment to commoners
  - No rule of law
  - Intellectual poets & writers
  - Role of military
  - Carefree attitude of kings
  - Wastage of money



### 3. Consequences

- Prevailed equality
- Provide human rights
- Formation of constitution
- Provided civil rights
- Empowering military
- Boost the economy
- Increase in state's assets
- Rule of law
- No tripple taxation to commoners
- Church sub-ordinated to state
- Unicameral legislature
- Constitutional monarchy



## Introduction:

"The French revolution 1789" is an important event of European history. It impacted this Europe and revolutionized its structure in a great way. Earlier 1789, there was a concept of king, catholic church, clergy, nobles, bourgeoisies and peasants in europe. All the authority & divine right to rule was given to kings and clergies. The bourgeoisies, although they were the intellectual and educated minds of France but still they were living a deprived life. They were deprived of deserving jobs despite being educated. They were not allowed to take a decision of their own. These intellectual minds of society were controlled by uneducated higher authorities like kings and clergies.

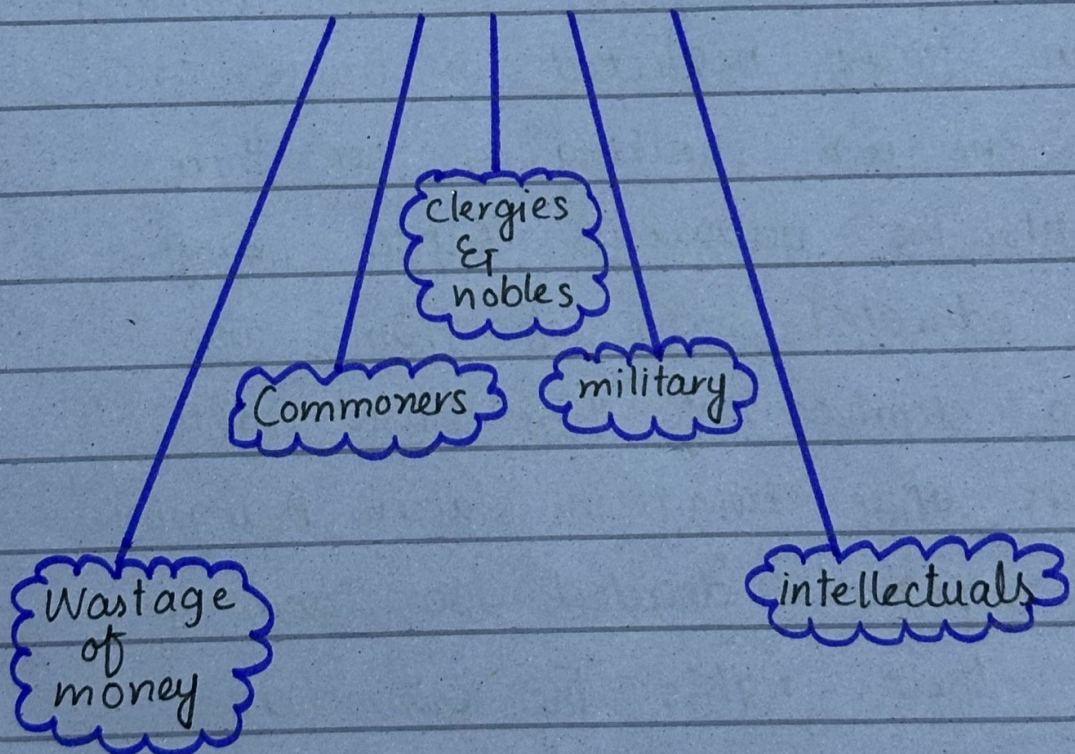
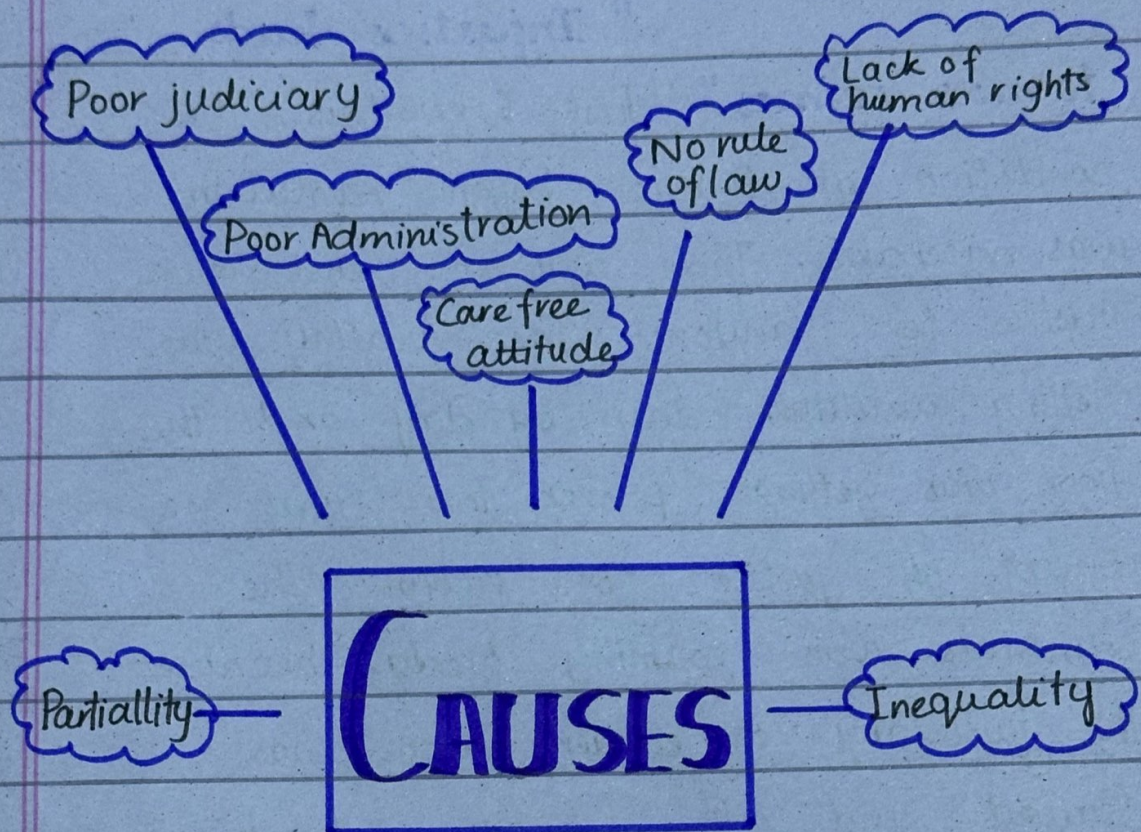
There was another class other than



bourgeoisies who were living a life of misery and they were peasants. They were treated inhumanly by clergies and nobles. They were deprived of their basic human rights. Other than this, they were forced to pay tripple taxes while clergies and nobles were exempted from tax. They were forcefully asked to do cultivation in the lands of clergies and nobles.

In short, there was unfair division of authorities and rights among people earlier the revolution in Europe. This irritated the revolutioners and hit their nerves and forced them bring a revolution in France for a slavery-free future for their upcoming generations. Let us discuss briefly the causes and consequences of French revolution.







## 1. Poor judiciary

"Injustice leads to more crimes" Just like this, the condition of France before revolution was miserable. There was no sense of justice for anyone. The wealthy was getting wealthier day by day and the poor was getting poorer. There was no concept of justice for victims. The criminals were roaming freely because the judiciary of earlier France was flawed and the kings and clergies were sleeping in ignorance. The commoners were fully neglected in France & no one was speaking up for their rights. The bourgeoisies despite being the educated sector of France was also deprived of their basic rights. Years after living in slavery, bourgeoisies and peasants decided to stand up for their rights. The commoners were the lead actors in French revolution.



## 2- Inequality

There was no equality between clergies, nobles and commoners.

The earlier France was following monarchy. The kings had the divine rule and authorities. Similarly, clergies and nobles were also considered prior and pious to others. On the other side, bourgeoisie and peasants were the lowest class in France and were deprived of all basic human rights. They were living a forceful and miserable life under the influence of kings, clergies and nobles.

## 3- Partiality

Earlier Europe depicts a wide picture of partiality b/w rich and poor who were kings and nobles at that time. The kings, clergies (who were owners of church) and nobles were most privileged in French society and were exempted of all rules and taxes. While the commoners mostly bourgeoisies and peasants were deprived of basic human rights.



#### 4. Carefree attitude:

While the country was suffering with inflation, default economy and food crisis, the greater officials and kings of France were busy enjoying the luxuries with the hefty tax amounts implied only on commoners. The King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette were swinging in the joy of luxuries, while the common man was suffering with misery.

#### 5. Poor Administration:

The kings of earlier Europe, failed to execute a fine administration in the state. The government institutes lost their authority and control and hence became useless for common man e.g. states general, whose last meeting was held 174 years ago and after then it was left of no use.



## 6. Wastage of money:

A hefty amount of taxes were being collected from peasants & bourgeois and besides this they were also forced to pay tithes to clergies. This money of blood and sweat was wasted like water by king and nobles of his court. This money was only used for the luxuries of kings and nobles. This carefree attitude of upper class made commoners to think about their rights.

## 7. Intellectuals:

The great intellectual writers of 18th century including J.J Rousseau, Voltaire and Montesquie who were inspired by democratic America impacted the common man through unique writing style and introduced the concept of deism, free will and rights of fraternity and being vocal about them. These writings influenced the commoners to struggle for their rights.



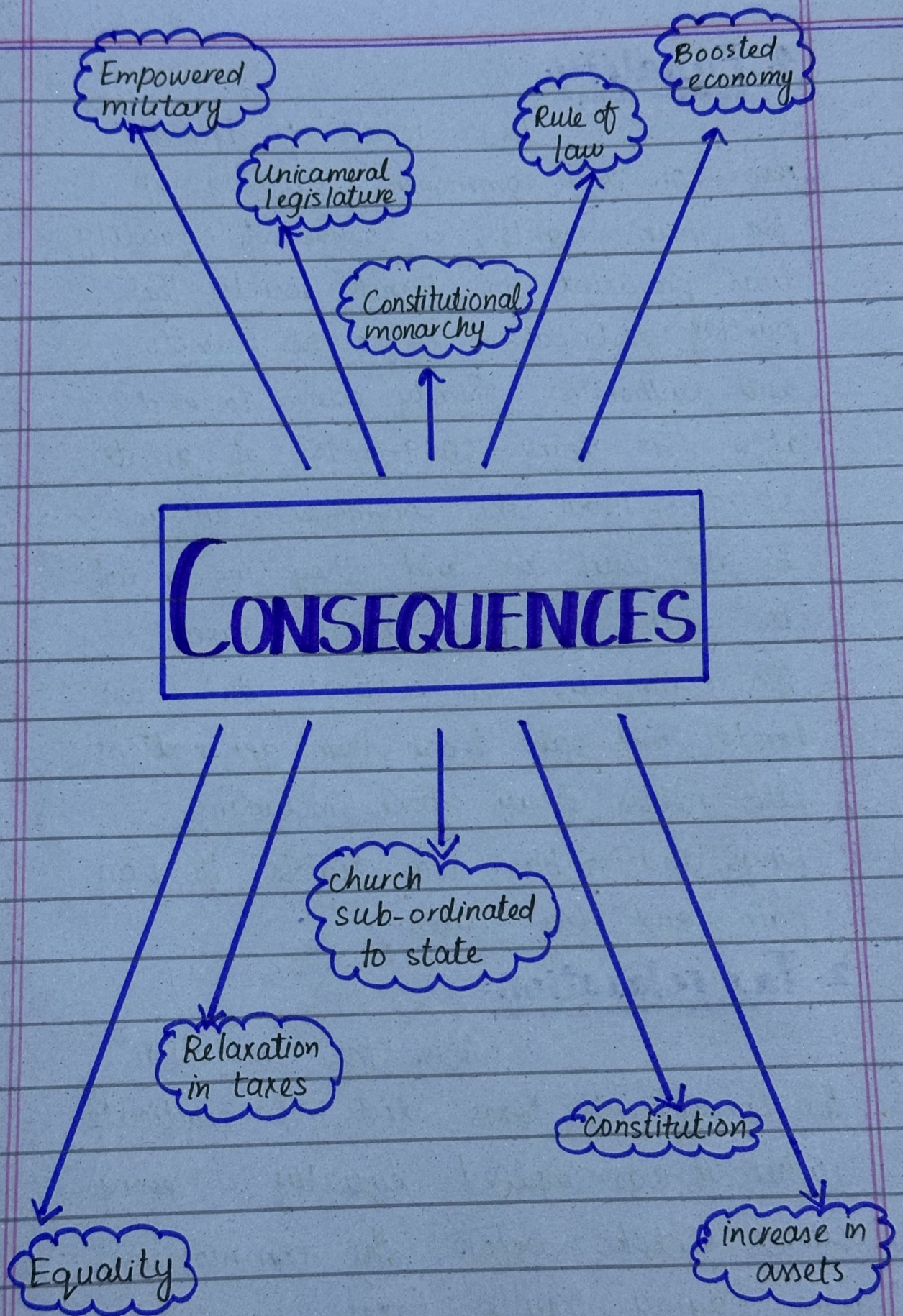
## 8. Role of military:-

When the French army went to America during American revolution in 18th century, they got really inspired from their democratic system, role of law, capitalism, liberalism and providance of basic human rights. When the militants returned back to France, they told the common men about the democratic system of America & this inspired the commoners to fight for their freedom in many great ways.

## 9. No rule of Law:-

There was no rule of law in earlier French society. Everyone was enjoying the luxury of its choice excluding the commoners who turned into revolutioners afterwards because these flawed rules of a flawed society hit their nerves and forced them to stand up for their own rights.







## 1. Equality:

As a result of French revolution and commoners standing up for their rights, a sense of equality was prevailed in French society. The partial distribution of rights, assets and authorities finally came to end after six years (1789-1795) of great struggle. Now the commoners can go to the court too and they would not be liable to pay tripple taxes. No commoners can cultivate their own lands and can teach their generations like nobles. Every citizen (including kings and nobles) was liable to pay fair and due taxes.

## 2. Tax relaxation:

After the revolution, the concept of taxes did not eradicate rather it was implied equally on every citizen. Unlike before, the commoners were paying tripple taxes, now they don't have. Every noble and common men would pay equal taxes. This was the major contribution to French revolution.



### 3 Church sub-ordinated to state:

The main accomplishment of French revolution was, the church sub-ordinated to state which means the church and its clergy is now under the state so that they could not make unlawful decisions of their own to bother the masses such as the concept of tithes was neglected after French revolution.

### 4. Constitution:

The third party i.e commoners demanded for a constitution for their state so that everyone would be accountable for their deeds and the peace would prevail. The commoners asked the clergies, kings and nobles to sign the constitution. Those who agreed to constitution were called juring members and those who denied the constitution were called non-juring members and moved away from France including Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antonette.



### 5. Increase in assets:

After the French revolution, when the equal taxes were imposed equally on everyone and the luxuries of kings and nobles were reduced to bare minimum, the assets of state automatically increased.

### 6. Constitutional monarchy:

Rather than the king monarchy, after the (constitu) French resolution it was decided that everyone must abide by constitutional monarchy to have a peaceful and dispute free society. Everyone including kings, nobles and clergies must sign the constitution and helps state to prevail the constitutional monarchy in the society.

### 7. Rule of law:

It was decided after the French revolution that a rule of law must be implied through the state and everyone is strictly ordered



to abide by rules. In order to fix the devasted system of French society, it was must to imply the rule of law in state.

### 8. Unicameral Legislature:

The commoners also asked the king to establish a unicameral legislature that must be functioning so that even kings and nobles would also accountable to authorities for their actions. Also this unicameral legislature would also look to all judicial and lawful actions for society.

### Conclusion:

The French revolution (1789- 1795) impacted the France in a great way and left a mark in in the history of Europe. The revolutioners gave sacrifices and put immense efforts for a revolutionized Franch where everyone would be accountable for their actions and



do not follow the old monarchy system. The fact is French revolution actually worked for the people of France and their efforts proved to be fruitful for future generations. The kings and nobles agreed to the demands of commoners because their aggression at that time was quite scary but justified. This old monarchy had to come to an end because of its old legislature with no executive and no rule of law. Finally, it was done by bourgeoisies and peasants of French society who stood for their society and rights with fraternity and unity.