

SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 1

The French Revolution (History)

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

A well-prepared student should score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter's questions. Below 4 usually means the timeline of events was never memorised

TIME TO MASTER**6-8 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

Your child is studying how, between 1789 and 1804, the people of France overthrew an all-powerful king and an unfair social system in which a tiny privileged class of nobles and clergy paid no taxes while everyone else paid for everything. The chapter explains WHY the Revolution happened (inequality, an empty royal treasury, a food crisis, and powerful new ideas about liberty and equality), the KEY EVENTS in order (the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, France becoming a republic, the execution of the king, the violent Reign of Terror, and finally the rise of Napoleon), and WHY IT MATTERS — because the ideas of liberty, equality and citizens' rights born here spread across the world. It is one of the most heavily-weighted History chapters of Class 9, usually 6-8 marks.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- Why did only the Third Estate pay taxes, and not the clergy and nobles?
- What is the difference between the Estates-General and the National Assembly?
- Why was the storming of the Bastille so important if it held only seven prisoners?
- In which year did France become a republic, and in which year was Louis XVI executed?
- Who was Olympe de Gouges, and what did she demand?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Cannot say the events in the right order (mixes up 1789, 1791, 1792, 1793).
- Thinks the Estates-General and the National Assembly are the same body.
- Believes the Revolution had only one cause (usually 'the philosophers').
- Says France became a republic and executed the king in the same year (they are 1792 and 1793).

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If your child cannot give FOUR distinct causes of the Revolution (social, economic, political, intellectual) with one fact each, they will lose 3-4 marks on the most common long-answer question. The fix is a daily 10-minute timeline-and-causes recall, NOT re-reading the whole chapter.

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