

Answer Key to Exercise

1. Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 2. rule over the land without being held accountable for his actions
 3. the Reign of Terror
 4. the combined forces of Austria and Russia
 5. Austria, Prussia, Sweden, and Russia
1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. False
1. The term bourgeoisie was used to refer to the middle class that had emerged in the French society due to the flourishing trade and commerce in Europe. This section of the society included merchants, businessmen, industrialists, intellectuals, and professionals.
 2. Philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu contributed towards igniting the revolutionary spirit of the French population through their writings.
 3. On 17 June 1789, the members of the Third Estate formed a National Assembly. They assembled at the royal indoor tennis court of Versailles and took an oath to frame a new constitution for the nation. This event came to be known as the Tennis Court Oath.
 4. Jacobins was a radical political group, led by Robespierre, who started consolidating their power within the National Assembly in the post-revolution era.
 5. The Battle of Waterloo put an end to Napoleon's dream of ever coming back to full power.
1. The eighteenth-century French society was feudal in nature. The society was divided into three estates, or orders. The First Estate, which consisted of the clergy, occupied the highest strata in society. The Second Estate consisted of the nobility. They were placed right beneath the clergy. The Third Estate consisted of the bourgeoisie, peasants, landless labourers, and servants. They were placed at the lowest rung of the French feudal structure. Though, majority of the French population belonged to the Third Estate, most of the privileges and power were enjoyed by the first two estates.
 2. Even though majority of the French population belonged to the Third Estate, the members of the first two estates enjoyed power and privileges. The privileges of the first two estates included exemption from taxes and the right to extract feudal dues from the peasantry. The Third Estate, on the other hand, faced oppression and exploitation under the feudal structure.
 - The burden of paying taxes levied by the king and the other two estates came onto the Third Estate.
 - Peasants were forced to render free service, or corvee, to their lords.
 - Workers did not have the right to leave their jobs without the approval of their employers.
 - The bourgeoisie class, despite having economic strength, did not enjoy any social standing.
 3. The American War of Independence had an immense impact on the French Revolution. As France had supported the colonies in the American War of Independence, many French soldiers and

generals had participated in the war. Once the war was over, they came back to their homeland with revolutionary ideas and inspired people to fight for their rights. They propagated the idea that French people should establish a government based on the ideals of equality, liberty, and fraternity. French participation in the American War of Independence increased the burden on the French treasury.

4. A meeting of the Estates General was called in 1789 to discuss the financial crisis of the French monarchy.