

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Which conditions were viewed as obstacles to economic exchange & growth by the new commercial classes during Napoleon's rule?

Ans. Following conditions were viewed as obstacles to economic exchanges & growth by the new commercial classes:

- (i) There was an enormous increase in population.
- (ii) Feudal system, serfdom and manorial dues were taxing for the poor landless peasants.
- (iii) There were no standardised weights and measures and neither a common national currency.
- (iv) There was an increased taxation, censorship, forced recruitment into the French armies to conquer Europe.
- (v) There was no freedom to peasants, artisans, workers and new businessmen.

Q. 2. How was Europe closely allied to the ideology of liberalism?

Ans. (i) Ideas of national unity in early 19th century Europe were closely allied to the ideology of liberalism.

(ii) The term 'liberalism' is derived from the Latin word 'liber' which means free.

(iii) For the new middle classes, liberalism stood for freedom for the individual and equality of all before law.

(iv) Politically, it emphasised the concept of government by consent.

(v) Since the French Revolution, liberalism had stood for the end of autocracy and clerical privileges, a constitution and representatives government through parliament.

Q. 3. "The Habsburg Empire that ruled over Austria-Hungry, was a patchwork of many different regions and peoples." Justify the statement with suitable examples.

Ans. Eastern and Central Europe were under autocratic monarchies within the territories of which lived diverse people.

They did not see themselves as sharing a collective identity or a common culture.

The Habsburg Empire that ruled over Austria-Hungry, for example, was a patchwork of many different regions and people.

It included the Alpine regions—the Tyrol, Austria and the Sudetenland— as well as Bohemia, where the aristocracy was predominantly German speaking.

It also included the Italian speaking princes of Lombardy and Venetia.

In Hungary, half of the population spoke Magyar while the other half spoke a variety of dialects.

In Galicia, the aristocracy spoke Polish.

Besides these three dominant groups, there also lived within the boundary of empire, a mass of subject peasant peoples — Bohemians, Slovaks to the north, Slovenes in Carniola, Croats in the south and Romans to the east in Transylvania.

The only tie binding these diverse groups together was a common allegiance to the emperor.

Q. 4. “Vernacular language and local folklores carried modern nationalist message to large audiences, who were mostly illiterate.” Justify with suitable examples.

Ans. Vernacular languages and local folklores played an important role in creating the idea of nation in Europe.

This was especially so in the case of Poland which had been partitioned by the great powers — Russia, Prussia & Austria.

Karol Kurpinski of Poland celebrated the national struggle through his operas and music, turning folk dances like the Polonaise, Mazurka into nationalist symbols.

After Russian occupation, the Polish language was forced out of schools and the Russian language was imposed everywhere.

Many members of the clergy in Poland began to use language as a weapon of national resistance.

Polish was used for church gatherings and all religious instructions.

As a result a large number of priests and bishops were put in jail or sent to Siberia by the Russian authorities.

The use of Polish came to be seen as a symbol of struggle against Russian dominance.

Q. 5. Why was the issue of extending political rights to women a controversial one within the liberal movement in 1848? What do these revolutions reveal about political conflicts due to gender differences?

Ans. Parallel to the revolts of poor, unemployed and starving peasants and workers in many European countries in the year 1848, a revolution led by the educated middle classes was underway.

Events of February 1848 in France had brought about the abdication of the monarch and a republic based on universal male suffrage had been proclaimed.

In other parts of Europe where independent nation states did not exist —such as Germany, Italy, Poland, the Austro-Hungarian Empire—men and women of the liberal middle classes combined their demands for constitutionalism with national unification.

The issue of extending political rights to women was a controversial one within the liberal movement, in which large number of women had participated actively over the years.

Women had formed their own political associations, founded newspapers and taken part in political meetings and demonstrations.

Despite this, they were denied suffrage rights during the elections of the Assembly.

When the Frankfurt Parliament was held in Church of St. Paul's, women were admitted only as observers to stand in visitor's gallery.

Q. 6. Explain the statement “When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches cold.”

Ans. Most of the European countries followed France persistently.

The first upheaval took place in France in July 1830.

The Bourbon kings, who had been restored to power during the conservative reaction after 1815, were now overthrown by liberal revolutionaries, who installed a constitutional monarchy with Louis Philippe at its head.

‘When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches cold’ was spoken by Metternich.

The July revolution sparked an uprising in Brussels which led to Belgium breaking away from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands.

An event that mobilised nationalist feelings among the educated elite across Europe was the Greek war of Independence.

Q. 7. “The first clear expression of nationalism came with the ‘French Revolution’ in 1789.” Examine the statement. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

Ans. “The first clear expression of Nationalism came with the ‘French Revolution’ in 1789”:

(i) The political and constitutional changes that came in the wake of the French revolution led to the transfer of sovereignty from the monarchy to a body of French citizens.

(ii) Sense of collective belonging with La Patrie (the fatherland) and Le Citoyen (the citizen).

(iii) Formation of National Assembly.

(iv) Hymns were composed and oaths were taken.

(v) Centralised and uniform laws were introduced.

(vi) Internal customs duties and dues were abolished and a uniform system of weights and measure were adopted.

(vii) French became the common language of the nation.

(viii) With the outbreak of the revolutionary wars, the French armies began to carry the idea of nationalism abroad.