World History · GS - I

The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	World History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Liberty, equality, fraternity, citizenship, popular sovereignty, human rights, secularism, republicanism, rule of law, social justice

Model Answer

Introduction

The French Revolution of 1789 transformed political thought by challenging absolutism and hereditary privilege. Its principles continue to influence modern democratic societies.

1. Liberty and Individual Rights

The Revolution strengthened the idea that individuals possess rights that cannot legitimately depend upon birth or social status. Modern constitutional democracies similarly protect civil liberties.

2. Equality

The abolition of feudal privileges advanced equality before law. Contemporary democratic systems continue to pursue equality through universal citizenship, affirmative action and anti-discrimination measures.

3. Popular Sovereignty

The Revolution challenged the notion of divine-right monarchy and strengthened the principle that political authority derives from the people. This became foundational to representative democracy.

4. Secularism and Citizenship

The transformation of political identity from subjects of a monarch to equal citizens contributed to modern concepts of citizenship and secular public authority.

5. Social Justice

Its slogan of liberty, equality and fraternity continues to inspire movements against economic and social exclusion.

Conclusion

Although the Revolution also witnessed violence and political excesses, its enduring legacy lies in constitutionalism, citizenship, equality and popular sovereignty, which remain central to contemporary democratic aspirations.

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