Guided Reading Questions for Barzun’s ‘The Forgotten Troops’ excerpt out of From Dawn To Decadence

1. “To govern well requires two distinct kinds of ability: political skill and the administrative mind”. According to Barzun, what conditions existed in France that may have prevented French leaders from having these abilities?

2. What role did the ‘societies, clubs, and “sections”’ play in the Revolution?

3. Who were the sans-culotte?

4. According to Barzun, “…a stubborn minority opposed every step of the revolution…”. Who were the stubborn minority and how did they resist?

5. What was the response of the British to the French Revolution?

6. Describe the changes to suffrage that took place in France as a result of the Revolutions. Who benefited and who was excluded?
7. Describe the post-revolutionary reforms made in the following areas:
   
a) Education:
   
b) Weights and measures:
   
c) The calendar:
   
d) Fashion:

8. What was the *levy en masse*?

9. Why does Barzun spend the last 5 paragraphs reflecting on ‘Equality’?