

(a) Struggle against Apartheid :

Apartheid referred to the policy of discrimination on the basis of race as practiced by the government of South Africa. The main features of this policy were as follows:

All people were classified and separated on the basis of race.

Each group had to live in a separate area.

There were separate schools and universities, separate shopping centers, separate coaches in trains. Marriage between persons belonging to two races was a criminal offence. There were restriction on movement from one place to another. Non-whites had no votes. They had no say in the governance of the country. in short, the policy of apartheid human denied human rights and rendered the government of South Africa as among the most oppressive regimes in the world in the 20th century.

(b) The end of the Policy of Apartheid:

In 1910 the African National Congress was formed which aimed at establishing a non-racial democratic South Africa. The movement was intensified in the 1950s. In 1960s, the African National Congress was banned. The African National Congress organized its own army to fight against the racial regime. The UN condemned the policy of South Africa. In the 1980s some western countries imposed sanctions against South Africa. by the end of the 1980s the international isolation of the government of South Africa was complete. With it began the process of ending the apartheid. The ban on the Africa National Congress was lifted and it leaders released. Negotiations began between the African National Congress s and South Africa government for framing a new constitution which would give all South Africans the right to vote. In April 1994, elections were held in South Africa as per the new provisions. The African National Congress won with a thumping majority and formed a non-racial democratic government. Finally, at the midnight of 26 April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled making the newly born democracy in the world.

(c) Towards a new Constitution:

The party that had ruled through oppression and brutal killings and the party that led the freedom struggle sat together to draw up a common constitution. One of the finest constitutions the world has ever had. It gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country. The Constitution makes it clear that in the search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded, no one should be treated as

a demon, everybody should become part of the solution, whatever they might have done or represented in the past. The South African constitution inspires democrats all over the world. a state denounced by the entire world till recently as the most undemocratic one is now seen as a model of democracy.

(d) Nelson Mandela- Gandhi of South Africa:

Nelson Mandela was one of the most able, efficient and far-sighted leaders of the African national Congress. It was under his leadership that the struggle against apartheid reached its climax. Due to participation in the movement against apartheid he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. He spent the next 28 years in prison. In the 90s due to activities of the African National Congress and the support it got from other countries of the world, South African regime was completely isolated from the world. In order to create a favorable atmosphere Nelson Mandela was released in 1990. In 199 the first democratic elections were held and Nelson Mandela was elected the President of South Africa.

WHY DO WE NEED A CONSTITUTION ?

A Constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country. Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and government. a constitution does many things :

- (i) First, it generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together;
- (ii) Second, it specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take which decisions;
- (iii) Third, it lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are;
- (iv) Fourth, it expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

All countries that have constitutions are not necessarily democratic. But all countries that are democratic will have constitutions. After the War of independence against Great Britain, the Americans gave themselves a constitution. after the Revolution, the French people approved a democratic constitution. Since then it has become a practice in all democracies to have a written constitution.

MAKING OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The making of the constitution for a huge and diverse country like India was not an easy affair.

- (i) The people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
- (ii) The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. At least ten lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.
- (iii) The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with Indian or with Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of these princely states was difficult and uncertain task.
- (iv) When the constitution was being written, the makers of the constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.

(a) The path to constitution:

- (i) Our national movement was not merely a struggle against a foreign rule. It was also a struggle to rejuvenate our country and to transform our society and politics.
- (ii) The familiarity with political institutions of colonial rule also helped develop an agreement over the institutional design. the experience gained by Indians in the working of the legislative institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions.
- (iii) Many of our leaders were inspired by the ideals of French Revolutions, the practice of Parliamentary democracy in Britain and Bill of Rights in USA. So they incorporated some good points of the Constitution of these in the Indian Constitution.
- (iv) They also got inspiration from the Constitution drafted by Moti Lal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders in 1928, and the outlines of the Indian Constitution prepared by the Indian National Congress at its Karachi session in 1931.

(b) The Constituent Assembly:

The Constitution of India was framed by a Constituent Assembly set up under the Cabinet Mission Plan, 1946. The assembly consisted of 389 members representing

provinces (292), states (93), the chief commissioner provinces (3) and Baluchistan (1). The assembly held its first meeting on December 6, 1946. It elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its Chairman. Soon after the country was divided into India and Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and that of

Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly that wrote the India Constitution had 299 members. The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on January 26, 1950. to mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year.

(c) Why should we accept the Constitution made by the Constituent Assembly more than 50 years ago?

(i) The Constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. it expresses a broad consensus of its time. Many countries of the world have had to rewrite their constitution afresh because the basic rules were not accepted to all major social groups or political parties. In some other countries, the Constitution exists as a mere piece of paper. No one actually follows it. The experience of our constitution is different. Over the last half a century, several groups have questioned some provisions of the Constitution. But no large social group or political party has ever questioned the legitimacy of the Constitution itself. This is an unusual achievement for any constitution.

(ii) The Constituent Assembly represented the people of India. There was no universal adult franchise at that time. So the Constituent assembly could not have been chosen directly by all the people of India. It was elected mainly by the members of the existing Provincial Legislatures. This ensured a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country. The Assembly represented members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations.

(iii) The manner in which the Constituent Assembly worked gives sanctity to the Constitution. The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. First some basic principles were decided and agreed upon. Then a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place on the Draft Constitution, clause by clause. More than two thousand amendments were considered. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent assembly has been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debats'. When printed, these debates are 12 bulky volumes! These debates provide

the rationale behind every provision of the Constitution. These are used to interpret the meaning of the Constitution.

(d) Indian Constitution: A Living Document:

Those who crafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society. They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law. So, they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendments. Till date 104 amendments have been made in the constitution. The amendment procedure provided in the constitution is as follows. There are three categories of amendments:

(i) In the first category, amendments can be done by simple majority of members present and voting before sending it for the President's assent.

(ii) In the second category, amendments require a special majority. Such an amendment can be passed by each house of Parliament by the two-thirds majority of the members of the house present and voting and then sent to the President for his assent.

(iii) The third category, amendments is really difficult to pass. Besides the special majority mentioned in the second category, the same has to be approved by at least 50 percent of the state legislatures.

Multiple Choice Questions of Constitutional Design

1. Who amongst the following was not a member of the Constituent Assembly of India?

- a) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- b) Dr B. R. Ambedkar
- c) H. C. Mukherjee
- d) Mahatma Gandhi

2. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee for making the Constitution of India?

- a) Rajendra Prasad
- b) Baldev Singh
- c) H. C. Mukherjee
- d) Dr B. R. Ambedkar

3. Who was the President of the Indian Constituent Assembly?

- a) Motilal Nehru
- b) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- c) Sarojini Naidu
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

4. Which of the following days is celebrated to mark the enforcement of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Republic Day
- b) Independence Day
- c) Gandhi Jayanti
- d) Constitution Enforcement Day

5. When did the Indian Constitution come into force?

- a) 26th November, 1949
- b) 15th August, 1947
- c) 26th January, 1950
- d) 26th January, 1930

6. Who prepared the Constitution for India in 1928?

- a) Motilal Nehru
- b) B. R. Ambedkar
- c) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

7. How many members did the Constituent Assembly of India have?

- a) 199
- b) 299
- c) 399
- d) 279

8. When did the Constituent Assembly adopt the Constitution of India?

- a) 26th November, 1949
- b) 15th August, 1947
- c) 26th January, 1950
- d) 26th January, 1930

9. The first captain of the National Hockey Team who was also the member of the Constituent Assembly was?

- a) Baldev Singh

- b) Somnath Lahiri
- c) Jaipal Singh
- d) K. M. Munshi

10. Mahatma Gandhi's vision about the Indian Constitution was published in which magazine?

- a) Discovery of India
- b) Young India
- c) New India
- d) Indian Gazette

11. The Preamble to the Constitution of India declares India to be a

- (a) Sovereign, Democratic Republic
- (b) Sovereign, Socialist, Democratic, Republic
- (c) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic
- (d) None of the above

12. Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution of India:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. (a) Motilal Nehru - | (a) President of the Constituent Assembly |
| 2. (b) B.R. Ambedkar - | (b) Member of the Constituent Assembly |
| 3. (c) Rajendra Prasad - | (c) Chairman of the Drafting Committee |
| 4. (d) Sarojini Naidu - | (d) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928 |

13. The Constitution of India is

- (a) flexible
- (b) rigid
- (c) partly flexible and partly rigid
- (d) none of these

14. India is a secular state because

- (a) there is no state religion
- (b) every citizen has the right to adopt and practice any religion
- (c) no discrimination can be made among citizens on the basis of religion
- d) all of the above

15. Which among the following is not a feature of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Parliamentary form of government
- (b) Federal form of government
- (c) Double citizenship

(d) A written constitution

16. Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa?

- (a) Between South Africa and its neighbors.
- (b) Between men and women.
- (c) Between the white minority and the black majority.
- (d) Between the colored minority and the black majority.

17. Which of these is a provision that a democratic constitution does not have ?

- (a) Powers of the head of the state.
- (b) Name of the head of the state.
- (c) Powers of the legislature.
- (d) Name of the country.

18. 4. Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

- (a) Sovereign (i) Government will not favor any religion
- (b) Republic (ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions
- (c) Fraternity (iii) Head of the state is an elected person
- (d) Secular (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

- 1) : d) Mahatma Gandhi
- 2) : d) Dr B. R. Ambedkar
- 3) : b) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- 4) : a) Republic Day
- 5) : c) 26th January, 1950
- 6) : a) Motilal Nehru
- 7) : b) 299
- 8) : a) 26th November, 1949
- 9) : c) Jaipal Singh
- 10) : b) Young India
- 11) : (c) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic
- 12) : (1) a + d, (2) b + c, (3) c + a, (4) d + b.
- 13 : (c) partly flexible and partly rigid
- 14 : d) all of the above
- 15. : (c) Double citizenship

16. : (c) Between the white minority and the black majority.
17. : (b) Name of the head of the state.
18. : (a) + (ii), (b) + (iii), (c) + (iv), (d) + (i).

Short Answer Questions of Constitutional Design

1. Name the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Answer: (i) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (ii) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(iii) Jawaharlal Nehru. (iv) K.M. Munshi
(v) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

2. Who framed the Constitution of India?

Answer: The Constitution of India was framed by Constituent Assembly established in 1946.

2. Who was the President (Chairman) of the Constituent Assembly?

Answer: On 9th December 1946, Dr. Sachidanand Sinha, the oldest member of the constituent Assembly, was chosen temporary chairman and on 11th December, 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was unanimously elected permanent chairman.

3. When the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India and when it came into force?

Answer: The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26th November 1949 and it came into force on the 26th January 1950.

4. State the ideals laid down by the Constitution before the Indian Nation.

Answer: Ideals before the Indian Nation are :

- (i) Democracy,
- (ii) Socialism,
- (iii) Secularism and
- (iv) National Integration.

5. What are the Objectives of the Indian Constitution?

Answer: The Objectives are:

- (1) Justice - (a) Social Justice (b) Economical Justice (c) Political Justice.
- (2) Liberty.
- (3) Equality.

- (4) Fraternity.
- (5) Unity and Integrity of the Nation.
- (6) Date of Adoption of the Constitution.

6. What are the salient features of the Constitution of India?

Answer: The salient features are:

- (1) A Written and Lengthy Constitution.
- (2) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.
- (3) Federal Government.
- (4) Parliamentary Government.
- (5) Fundamental Rights and Duties.
- (6) Directive Principle of State Policy.
- (7) Party Rigid and Party Flexible.
- (8) Single Citizenship.
- (9) Universal Adult Franchise.
- (10) Language Policy.
- (11) Special Provision for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.
- (12) Independent Judiciary.
- (13) A Constitution Derived from Many Sources.
- (14) One National Language.
- (15) Emergency Provision

Q.1. In which way was the system of 'apartheid' oppressive?

Ans. The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the blacks. They were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit. Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, swimming pools, public toilets etc. were all separate for the whites and blacks. They could not even visit the churches where the whites worshipped. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.

Q.2. What was the appeal made by the black leaders to the fellow blacks after the emergence of the new democratic South Africa?

Ans. After the emergence of the new democratic South Africa, black leaders appealed to fellow blacks to forgive the whites for the atrocities they had committed while in power. They urged the people to build a new South Africa based on equality of all races, and of men and women, on democratic values, social justice and human rights.

Q.3. What is meant by the term ‘Constitution’?

Ans. The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living in that country. It is the supreme law that determines the relationship among the people living in a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and government. It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have the power to take different decisions.

Q.4. Describe the advantages that Indians had when they participated in the legislatures which were set up as a result of the elections of 1937.

Ans. Although the legislatures set up in India as a result of elections of 1937 were not fully democratic, the experience gained by Indians in the working of the legislative institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions and working in them.

Q.5. Give a description of the composition of the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. The Constituent Assembly was elected mainly by the members of the existing Provincial Legislatures. This ensured a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country. Congress, which was the dominant party in the Assembly, itself included a variety of political groups and opinions. It represented members from different languages, castes, religions, classes and occupations.

Q.6. What did Ambedkar mean by ‘Contradiction’ in his concluding speech to the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. In his concluding speech to the Constituent Assembly Dr. Ambedkar said that India was entering a life of ‘contradictions’ on 26th Jan 1950. By this he meant that in politics Indians would have equality but in social and economic life, there would be inequality. In politics India would be recognising the principle of one man one vote, with one value, but in social and economic life, the principle of one man one value would be denied.

Q.7. Why was a constitution necessary for a country like South Africa?

Ans. The oppressor and the oppressed, i.e. the whites and the blacks were planning to live together, as equals. It was not going to be easy for them to trust each other. They wanted to safeguard their interests. The only way to build and maintain trust was to write down some rules. This set of basic rules was the constitution needed for South Africa.

Q.8. What do you understand by secularism? Why is India called a secular country?

Ans. India is a country of many religions and it respects all religions. No religion is given the status of state religion and equal respect is given to all beliefs, faiths and practices. Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.

Q.9. What are Constitutional Amendments? State its significance in a democratic country like India.

Ans. Constitutional Amendments are changes in the constitution made by the Supreme Legislative body in a country. The constitution of India is a very long and detailed document. Therefore, it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.

Q.10. What were the difficulties faced during the making of Indian constitution?

Ans. It was drawn up under very difficult circumstances. Making a constitution for a huge country like India was not an easy affair. The country was born through partition. The problem of princely states was left undecided by the British. There were anxieties about the present and future of the country.

Q.11. State the steps involved in the framing of Indian constitution.

Ans. The drafting of the document called the constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly. Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946. It had 299 members. The assembly adopted the constitution on 26 November 1949 and it came into force on 26 January 1950.

Q.12. The Preamble of our constitution is a short statement of values. Which country has inspired India to incorporate the Preamble? Why does it start with “We The People of India?”

Ans. Taking inspiration from American model, most countries including India have chosen to begin their constitutions with a importance to the people of India by saying that it is the people who have drawn up and enacted the constitution. It has not been handed down to them by a king or any outside power.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q.1. Regarding the constitution-making, what was the compromise reached at between the blacks and whites?

Ans. The constitution of South Africa was drawn together by the party of whites which had rules through oppression and the party that led the freedom struggle.

The constitution gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country. After long negotiations both parties agreed to a compromise. The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote. They also agreed to accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers. The blacks agreed that the majority rule would not be absolute. They agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority.

Q.2. What does the constitution effectively do that makes a country a democratic one?

Ans. A constitution does many things to make a country a democratic one : (i) It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.

(ii) It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have the power of taking which decisions.

(iii) It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.

(iv) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

Q.3. Why did the makers of the Indian constitution have anxieties about the present and the future of the country?

Ans. The makers of the Indian constitution had anxieties because making of the constitution for a huge and diverse country like India was not an easy affair. The country was born through partition on the basis of religious differences. At least ten lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence. Another problem was that the British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or to remain independent.

Q.4. Describe how the Constituent Assembly worked to prepare the constitution for India.

Ans. The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. First some basic principles were decided and agreed upon. Then a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place, clause by clause. More than 2000 amendments were made. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over 3 years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly was recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Q.5. In his speech ‘Tryst with Destiny’, Nehru said, ‘Freedom and power bring responsibility.’

Explain what he meant by this.

Ans. By saying that ‘Freedom and power bring responsibility’, Nehru meant that it is the responsibility of Indians to not relax with ease after having got the freedom, but to constantly strive to fulfil the pledges taken. He said that the service of India meant the service of the millions who suffered, it meant the erasing of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity.

Q.6. What is the preamble of the constitution? What is the significance of ‘We the people of India’ and ‘secular’ in the preamble? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. It is an introductory part of the constitution. It is called the key of the Constitution. “We the people of India” means the constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives. Secular means that citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion.

Q.7. Describe any three features of the Indian constitution.

Ans. (i) It establishes a Sovereign, Democratic, Republic in India (ii) It establishes a secular state in India (iii) It provides Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties.

(i) The Constitution begins with a short statement called the preamble. Sovereign means people have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matter. No external power can dictate the government of India. Democratic means a form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. Republic means the head of the state is an elected person and it is not a hereditary position.

(ii) Secular means citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion – Government treats all religions beliefs and practices with equal respect.

(iii) The Indian constitution provides justice – social, economic and political. Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.

Equality of status and opportunity.

Fraternity assuring dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation.

Q.8. What is constitution? Why do we need a constitution?

Ans. It is a set of written rules that are accepted by all the people of a country. It is needed as it is the supreme law that determines the relationship among citizens of a country. It defines how the government will be formed and also limits the powers of the government and defines the rights of the citizens.

Q.9. The Indian constitution is both rigid and flexible. Explain.

Ans. The Indian Constitution is neither wholly flexible nor wholly rigid. It is partly rigid and partly flexible. It is not so flexible as the British constitution is, nor so rigid as the American constitution is.

Some of the articles of the constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the parliament, e.g. changing the names of states, altering boundaries of states, matters relating to citizenship etc. Some of the articles of the constitution can be amended with 2/3 majority of the members of parliament, e.g. the election of the president of India. If any change in it is intended, then it has to be passed first by a majority of the total members in each house of parliament.

Q.10. Mention the landmark years in the making of the Indian constitution.

Ans. As far back as 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India. In 1931 at the Karachi Session of Indian National Congress leaders pondered what India's constitution should be like. Elections held in 1937 to provincial Legislatures and Ministries all over British India. It was beneficial for Indians to gain experience. That is why Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details from colonial laws like the Government of India Act 1935.

Q.11. What is the aim of a socialist state? How can that be achieved?

Ans. We all are generated socially and should be shared equally by society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socioeconomic inequalities. Social inequalities have to be reduced, Government should work for the welfare of all.

Q.12. What was the African Policy of Apartheid? How could that come to an end?

Ans. Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The White Europeans imposed this system on South Africa. The native people of Africa are black. They had 3/4 of the population. The whites treated all non-whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights. The blacks were forbidden from living in the white area. Trains, buses, hospitals, schools, hotels, taxis, cinemas etc. were all separate for the whites and blacks. The blacks, coloured and Indians fought for their rights-arranged marches protests and strikes. The racist government tortured them. On 26 April 1994, Apartheid came to an end with the birth of the Republic of South Africa.

Q.13. Define the following terms mentioned in the Preamble to the constitution of India.

(a) Sovereign (b) Socialist (c) Secular (d) Republic

Ans. Sovereign means people have supreme right to make decisions on internal and external matters. No external power can dictate to the Government of India.

Socialist means that wealth is generated socially it should be shared equally by society.

Secular means that citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion but there is no official religion.

Republic means the head of the State is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

Q.14. What is the Preamble? Explain any three guiding principles explained in the Preamble.

Ans. Preamble is a short statement of the basic values of the constitution. Taking inspiration from American model, most countries have adopted constitutions with a preamble. The preamble of the Indian constitution reads like a poem on democracy. It contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been built ; 1. Democratic–It will have a democratic government where people will enjoy equal rights ; 2. Equality– All citizens will be equal before the law; and 3. Fraternity– All world would behave as if they are members of the same family.

Q.15. Why do we need a constitution? Give any four points.

Ans. Every country has diverse groups of people. People have differences. Hence the need to have a set of rules. To maintain a trust, it is best to write down these rules. Thus the constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all. A constitution.

1. generates trust and coordination.
2. specifies how government will be constituted.
3. lays down limits on the powers of the government.
4. expresses the aspirations of the people.

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

Question 1.

What is known as the supreme law of the country?

Answer:

The constitution of the country is known as the supreme law of the country.

Question 2.

What does constitution include?

Answer:

The constitution includes the rights of citizens, the powers of the government and how the government should function.

Question 3.

Who was Nelson Mandela? ‘

Answer:

Nelson Mandela was the leader of African National Congress (ANC). He was imprisoned for 28 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison called Robben Island.

Question 4.

Why was Nelson Mandela imprisoned?

Answer:

He was imprisoned for opposing the apartheid regime.

Question 5.

What does 'apartheid' mean?

Answer:

Apartheid was the policy of racial discrimination and ill-treatment of the blacks by the white regime of South Africa based on the colour of their skin.

Question 6.

Who were called the blacks in South Africa?

Answer:

The natives of South Africa are black in colour, they make up for about three-fourth of the population and are called blacks. .

Question 7.

Which group of people in South Africa were classified as coloured?

Answer:

People of mixed races were classified as 'coloured'.

Question 8.

For whom was apartheid system particularly oppressive?

Answer:

Apartheid system was oppressive for the blacks. They were forbidden from living in white areas.

Question 9.

With what condition blacks were permitted to work in white areas?

Answer:

If they had a permit then only blacks were permitted to work in white areas.

Question 10.

What does segregation mean in South Africa?

Answer:

Segregation means a practice when trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools were all separate for the whites and the blacks in South Africa.

Question 11.

What treatment was given to the blacks?

Answer:

The blacks could not even visit the churches where the whites worshipped and could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment meted out to them.

Question 12.

Since when the blacks, coloured and the Indians fought against the apartheid system and how?

Answer:

Since 1950 the blacks, coloured and the Indians fought against the apartheid system by launching protest marches and strikes.

Question 13.

What was African National Congress (ANC)?

Answer:

It was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.

Question 14.

What was the role of the sensitive Whites in ANC?

Answer:

Many sensitive whites joined the African National Congress to oppose apartheid and played a leading role in the struggle.

Question 15.

How white racists continued their apartheid despite protests?

Answer:

The white racists continued apartheid by detaining, torturing and killing thousands of blacks and coloured people.

Question 16.

How did apartheid end in South Africa?

Answer:

As protests and struggles against apartheid increased the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression. Finally, at midnight of 26th April 1994, South Africa got freedom from apartheid.

Question 17

What policies were changed by the white regime in South Africa.

Answer:

The policies that changed were:

1. Discriminatory' laws were repealed.

2. Ban on political parties and restrictions on media were lifted. After 28 years, Nelson Mandela walked out free from jail.

Question 18.

What is the appeal made by the blacks to their fellow blacks after being democratic?

Answer:

Blacks appealed to the fellow blacks that they forgive the whites for the atrocities they had committed while in power. • ‘

Question 19.

On what basis they wanted to build a new nation?

Answer:

They wanted to build a new nation based on equality of all races and men and women, on democratic values, social justice and human rights.

Question 20.

Who formed the constitution of neo-democratic South Africa?

Answer:

The party that ruled through oppression and brutal killings and the party that led the freedom struggle sat together to draw up a common constitution.

Question 21.

When was the constitution of South Africa completed?

Answer:

After two years of discussion and debate the constitution makers came out with one of the finest . constitutions the world had seen.

Question 22.

Mention a distinguished feature of newly formed South African constitution.

Answer:

The constitution of South Africa provides the most extensive rights to its citizens available in any country.

Question 23.

What was the major challenge prevailing in the South African society after being democratic?

Answer:

In the new democracy, the oppressor and the oppressed were planning to live together as equals. It was difficult for them to trust each other.

Question 24.

What were the safeguards wished by the black majority?

Answer:

They wanted that there must not be any compromise regarding democratic principles of majority rule. They wanted substantial social and economic rights.

Question 25.

What were the fears prevailing among the whites?

Answer:

The white minority had a fear of losing their privileges and property. They wanted to secure them.

Question 26.

What compromise was made by white minority in South Africa?

Answer:

The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote. They also agreed to accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers.

Question 27.

What compromise was made by black majority in South Africa?

Answer:

They agreed that the majority rule would not be absolute. They agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the whites.

Question 28.

With which rules trust was built between blacks and whites in South Africa?

Answer:

The rules which determined what the elected governments are empowered to do and what they cannot do. Finally, they decided the rights of the citizen.

Question 29.

What was the condition of basic rules made by the South Africans?

Answer:

The basic rules will be supreme, that no government will be able to ignore them.

Question 30.

What is the title of the autobiography of Nelson Mandela?

Answer:

The title of the autobiography of Nelson Mandela is The Long Walk to Freedom.

Question 31.

How is constitution making not unique to South Africa?

Answer:

This is not unique to South Africa because like other countries it also has a diverse group of people having differences of opinions and interests.

Question 32.

Which groups need a constitution?

Answer:

Other than government, associations also need a constitution like clubs, cooperative societies or political parties, etc.

Question 33.

What is a constitution?

Answer:

A constitution is the supreme law of the country in written form accepted by all the people living together in the country.

Question 34.

Why is constitution considered as a supreme law?

Answer:

It is the supreme law as it determines the relationship among people living in a territory (called citizens) and the relationship between the people and government.

Question 35.

Who was the Education Minister in the first union cabinet?

Answer:

Abul Kalam Azad was the Education Minister.

Question 36.

Who was the Finance Minister in the first union cabinet?

Answer:

T. Krishnamachari.

Question 37.

What was the state of the princely states when the British left India?

Answer:

The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to be with India or with Pakistan or remain independent.

Question 38.

Who integrated the Indian princely states? How many princely states were there?

Answer:

Sardar Patel integrated the 562 princely states of India.

Question 39.

What advantages did Indian constitution makers have unlike South Africa? .

Answer:

The advantage was that they did not have to create a consensus about what a democratic India should look like as it was evolved mostly during freedom struggle.

Question 40.

Who firstly drafted the constitution for India?

Answer:

In 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India.

Question 41.

What resolution was made in 1931, Karachi session?

Answer:

In 1931, at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress, worked on how independent India's constitution should look like.

Question 42.

What was the benefit of years of thinking and deliberations on the framework of constitution?

Answer:

Many years of thinking and deliberation made leaders accept the ideas of the countries but on terms which are suitable for our country.

Question 43.

What was Constituent Assembly?

Answer:

The drafting of the constitution by an assembly of elected representatives is called Constituent Assembly.

Question 44.

How was Constituent Assembly formed?

Answer:

Constituent Assembly was formed by the elections held in July 1946.

Question 45.

When was the first meeting of Constituent Assembly held?

Answer:

The first meeting was held in December 1946.

Question 46.

How many members did the Constituent Assembly have?

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly that whole the Indian constitution had 299 members.

Question 47.

When was the constitutional work completed and when did the constitution come into force?

Answer:

The assembly adopted the constitution on 26th November 1949. It came into force on January 1950.

To mark this day we celebrate 26th January as Republic Day every year.

Question 48.

Why did the constitution come into effect on 26th January 1950?

Answer:

The constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950, because the constitution makers wanted to give importance to the date 26th January as Jawaharlal Nehru declared Independence Day of India on 26th January.

Question 49.

What does constitution of a country reflect?

Answer:

It reflects the views of its members expressing a broad consensus of its time.

Question 50.

Why had the countries rewritten their constitution?

Answer:

Many countries had written their constitution afresh because the basic rules were not acceptable to major social groups or political parties.

Question 51.

What is the unusual achievement of our constitution?

Answer:

The unusual achievement is that no large social group or political party has ever questioned the legitimacy of the constitution itself. ‘ ‘

Question 52.

Which political party dominated the assembly?

Answer:

The Indian National Congress dominated the assembly. The INC led India's freedom struggle.

Question 53.

How did the Constituent Assembly work?

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

Question 54.

What was the first task of Drafting Committee? Who was its chairman?

Answer:

The Drafting Committee firstly prepared a draft of the constitution for discussion. Its chairman was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Question 55.

Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly?

Answer:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Question 56.

How many draft amendments were considered?

Answer:

More than 2000 draft amendments were considered.

Question 57.

How much time was taken to complete the constitution of India?

Answer:

About 114 days spread over three years were taken for framing the Indian constitution.

Question 58.

What is a draft?

Answer:

A preliminary version of a piece of writing. For instance, the first draft of the party's manifesto.

Question 59.

What is a clause?

Answer:

A distinct section of a document.

Question 60.

What are Constituent Assembly Debates?

Answer:

When every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly was recorded and preserved these referred as Constituent Assembly Debates.

Question 61.

Write the significance of 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly Debates provide the reason behind every provision of the constitution. They are used to interpret the constitution.

Question 62.

Name the Indian leader who used to write for the magazine Young India in 1931.

Answer:

Mahatma Gandhi used to write for the magazine Young India in 1931.

Question 63.

What features formed the foundation for India's democracy?

Answer:

The values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were then nurtured by it, formed the foundation of India's democracy.

Question 64.

What is Preamble?

Answer:

The constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values is called the Preamble to the constitution.

Question 65.

Who inspired different countries of the world to start their constitution with a Preamble?

Answer:

The countries were inspired by the American constitution to start their constitution with a Preamble.

Question 66.

What does 'sovereign' mean?

Answer:

It means people have the supreme right to make decisions on internal and external matters. No external power can dictate the government of India.

Question 67.

What does socialist in a democratic constitution mean?

Answer:

It means wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. Government should reduce socio-economic inequalities.

Question 68.

What does democratic mean?

Answer:

Democratic means a form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.

Question 69.

What does a republic mean? . .

Answer:

In a republic, the head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

Question 70.

What does liberty in the Preamble mean?

Answer:

It means there is no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think how they express, how they wish to follow their thoughts in action.

Question 71.

What does equality mean in the constitution?

Answer:

All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to be ended by the government and it should ensure equal opportunities for all.

Question 72.

What is constitutional amendment?

Answer:

It is a change in the constitution made by the supreme legislative body in a country.

Question 73.

Why do we need to make amendments to our constitution?

Answer:

Our constitution is a very long and detailed document. It needs to be amended regularly to keep it updated.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 74.

What do you know about Nelson Mandela?

Answer:

1. Nelson Mandela was a South African leader who was tried for treason by the white South African government.
2. He along with seven others were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964, for daring to oppose the apartheid regime in South Africa.
3. He spent 28 years in Robben Island, South Africa's most dreaded prison.
4. He was released after 28 years from jail. At the midnight of 26th April 1994, South Africa become independent and Nelson Mandela became its first President. (any three)

Question 75.

How did the blacks of South Africa fight against apartheid?

Answer:

1. Since 1950, the blacks, coloured and the Indians had started their fight against the apartheid system. They started protest marches and strikes.
2. The African National Congress (ANC) led the struggle against the policies of segregation. This included workers' unions and the Communist Party.

3. They were also joined by many sensitive whites who opposed apartheid and played a leading role in this struggle. Several countries also denounced apartheid as unjust and racist.

Question 76.

Mention any three changes that were brought about in the constitution of South Africa after 1994.

Answer:

The three changes that were brought in the constitution of South Africa were as follows.

1. Discriminatory laws were repealed.
2. Ban on political parties and restrictions on media were lifted.
3. Nelson Mandela was released after 28 years of imprisonment.

Question 77.

How difficult it was for India to frame a constitution for united India after Independence?

Answer:

To frame a constitution for unified India after Independence, it was difficult in the following manner.

1. At that time the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
2. The country emerged through Partition on the basis of religion.
3. It was a traumatic experience for both the people of India and Pakistan.

Question 78.

Which countries' constitutional features inspired Indian constitution makers?

Answer:

The following countries' constitutional features inspired Indian constitution makers:

1. Ideals of the French Revolution.
2. The practice of Parliamentary democracy in Britain.
3. The Bill of Rights in the US.
4. The Socialist Revolution in Russia. (any three)

Question 79.

Describe the steps taken to form the Constituent Assembly.

Answer:

The Indian Constituent Assembly was formed for the task of framing the Constitution for independent India. The elections to the Provisional Legislative Assembly were held in July 1946. The elected members of the Provisional Legislative Assembly elected the members for the Constituent Assembly through proportional representation system. There were in total 389 members in the Constituent Assembly. Later with the Partition of India into India and Pakistan, 299 members wrote the constitution. It included 70

members from princely states and nine women. 284 present members gave their assent and the Indian Constitution was passed.

Question 80.

Give reasons for accepting the constitution which was made by the Constituent Assembly more than 50 years ago?

Answer:

The reasons for acceptability of the constitution till today are as follows:

1. The constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. It expresses a broad consensus of its time.
2. The Constituent Assembly represented the people of India. Since there was no universal adult franchise at that time, the Constituent Assembly could not have been chosen directly by the people. It was elected, mainly by the members of Provincial Legislatures, which ensured a fair share of all the regions of the country.
3. The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. The nature of work done by the Constituent Assembly gave sanctity to the constitution.

Question 81.

Write a short note on the Drafting Committee.

Answer:

1. It was a committee that prepared a draft of the constitution for discussion.
2. Its chairman was Dr BR Ambedkar.
3. These were several rounds of thorough discussions on the draft of the constitution clause by clause.
4. The members worked for 114 days spread over three years. Later it was presented to the public to get their opinion. (any three)

Question 82.

What was the role of Dr BR Ambedkar in making of the constitution?

Answer:

1. Dr BR Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
2. He played a key role in the making of the constitution He gave shape to our country of being a complete sovereign democratic republic based on universal adult franchise.
3. He stressed that in politics there should be equality but in social and economic life inequalities should be removed.

Question 83.

What are Constituent Assembly Debates?

Answer:

The proceedings of the Constituent Assembly have been recorded and preserved such as every document presented and preserved and these are known as 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

The three characteristics of these debates are:

1. These debates provide the reason behind every provision of the constitution.
2. These are used to interpret the meaning of the constitution.
3. When printed, the debates constitute 12 bulky volumes.

Question 84.

What is the philosophy of the Indian Constitution?

Answer:

The basic values have been included in the Preamble to the constitution. It contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been built.

1. The Preamble provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government. It is the soul of the constitution.
2. The Preamble mentions people as the sources of constitution.
3. It states that India is a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic. It provides justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for the people.

Question 85.

Describe how the Indian constitution has embodied the basic values into institutional arrangements?

Answer:

1. It is a detailed document. It needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated. It has provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendments.
2. The constitution lays down a procedure for choosing persons to govern the country.
3. It defines who will have how much power to take which decisions. It puts limits to what the government can do for providing some rights to its citizens that cannot be violated.

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]**Question 86.**

How was apartheid system practised in South Africa?

Answer:

The apartheid system was practised in South Africa in the following ways:

1. The system of apartheid divided the people on the basis of the colour of their skin.
 2. The non-whites were treated as inferiors and were deprived of their right to vote by the whites.
 3. They were forbidden from living in white areas.
 4. They could work in white areas only if they had a permission.
 5. Trains, buses, taxis hotels, schools, libraries, cinema halls, beaches, swimming pools were all separate for the whites and blacks.
 6. The blacks could not worship in the Churches where the whites worshipped.
 7. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment meted out to them.
- (any five)

Question 87.

Explain how did the white minority and the black majority agree to draw up a common constitution for South Africa.

Answer:

The white minority and the black majority agreed to draw up a common constitution for South Africa in the following ways.

1. The white regime changed its repressive policies and repealed its discriminatory laws.
2. Ban on political parties and restrictions on media were lifted.
3. The black leaders appealed to fellow blacks to forgive the whites for the atrocities committed by them.
4. There were long sessions of debates and discussions and they searched a solution to the existing problems.
5. It was agreed that everyone should be a part of the solution irrespective of the differences and whatever they had done or represented in the past.

Question 88.

What is a constitution? Explain the role of the constitution in a country.

Answer:

A constitution is a document containing the set of principles according to which a state or an organisation is supposed to be governed. The constitution reflects the philosophy on which country's administration works and expresses the aspirations of the people for creating a good society. It serves as the rule book for the government. It specifies the powers and limitations of the government and clearly demarcates the areas of its functioning. The constitution lays down the procedures and guidelines on how the government can be formed. It states the rights and duties of the citizens and directs the government to see that basic rights of the citizens are enforced. It thus generates trust and coordination required for unity among the people. The constitution also serves as a set of ideals that our society should live by.

Question 89.

Why do we need a constitution?

Answer:

We need a constitution for the following reasons.

1. It generates a degree of trust and coordination which is necessary for different kinds of people to live together.
2. The constitution specifies how the government will be constituted and what power each organ will have and who will take what decision.
3. It also defines the responsibilities of these three pillars of the government i.e., legislature, executive and judiciary.
4. It regulates the relationship between three organs and also with the people.
5. It also tells us about the rights and duties of the citizens.
6. It limits the powers of the government and tells us about the rights of the citizens.
7. The Indian constitution also protects/safeguards the interests of minorities, the backward classes and weaker sections. (any five)

Question 90.

“The familiarity with political institutions of the colonial rule helped to develop an agreement over the institutional design.” Justify the statement.

Answer:

The familiarity with political institutions of colonial rule helped to develop an agreement over the institutional design in the following ways.

1. The British rule gave voting rights to only a few. Later Election Commission was set up and voting rights were granted to all.
2. Elections were held in 1937 to Provincial Legislatures and Ministries were formed all over British India. The experience gained by Indians in the working of these institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions and working in them.
3. The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935.
4. The ideals of French Revolution, practice of Parliamentary democracy in Britain and Bill of Rights in the US inspired us to set up fundamental rights and duties.
5. The political institutions of the colonial rule are not just copied. They are questioned at every step to suit our nation's conditions and set-up. In a way they serve as a blueprint for setting up our institutions. (any five)

Question 91 “India emerged as independent country amidst heavy turmoil.” Justify the statement.

Answer:

To make a constitution for a huge and diverse population like India was not an easy affair. The following factors contributed to the making of our constitution:

1. A constitution drafted by Motilal Nehru and other Congress leaders in 1928, gave an insight of what an Indian Constitution should look like.
2. The people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
3. The country had a traumatic experience of Partition based on religious identities. There was a need to ensure unity. It was thus necessary to frame guidelines that could give equal representation to each section of the society.
4. The rulers of the princely states were free to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or Pakistan or remain independent.
5. The familiarity with the political institutions of colonial rule also played an important role in urging the leaders to develop a document containing the format on how the affairs of India would be carried on.
6. The leaders were vested with the responsibility of transforming society and politics. A well-defined political model was to be adopted that suited the Indian conditions. This could only be achieved through a set of guidelines to the elected members on the governance.
7. India faced the challenge of social discrimination. Principles like equality, liberty and justice irrespective of caste, class and religion were required to cope with this challenge, (any five)

Question 92.

What was the composition of the Constituent Assembly?

Answer:

1. The Constitution of India was framed by the Constituent Assembly which was constituted in 1946 under the provisions of the Cabinet Mission Plan.
2. As a result of Partition of India the number of members were reduced to 299.
3. It consisted of eminent persons like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr BR Ambedkar, KM Munshi, Rajagopalachari etc.
4. The women members like Sarojini Naidu and G Durgabai Deshmukh played an important role.
5. Each was an expert in his/her field. These great minds after a period of long discussions and debates keeping in mind the diversity and aspirations of the people of India framed the constitution.

Question 93.

Assess the contribution made by Constituent Assembly to form the Indian Constitution.

Answer:

The following were the contributions made by the Constituent Assembly to form the Indian Constitution.

It reflected the broad consensus of its time, that is, its provisions were accepted by all major social groups and political parties.

1. It represented the People of India. Its formation ensured a fair geographical share of the members from all regions of the country.
It accommodated the opposition in a fair way and gave opportunities to raise their concerns before arriving at a conclusion.
2. It worked in a systematic and open way. First basic principles were decided and agreed upon and then the draft was prepared.
3. Several rounds of long debates and discussions were held. Every document presented and word spoken was carefully recorded and preserved. This was done to keep a record for further reference.

Question 94.

Give a brief description about any five members of the Constituent Assembly.

Answer:

The five members of the Constituent Assembly were:

1. Dr Rajendra Prasad: (1884-1963)
 1. Born in Bihar
 2. President of the Constituent Assembly.
 3. A lawyer who played an important role in the Champaran satyagraha.
 4. He was the president of Congress three times.
 5. The first President of India (any two)
2. HC Mookerjee: (1887-1956)
 1. Born in Bengal
Vice-President of the Constituent Assembly
 2. Renowned author and educationist
 3. Congress leader. Member of All India Christian Council and Bengal Legislative Assembly. Later Governor of West Bengal. (any two)
3. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964)
 1. Prime minister of interim government
 2. Lawyer and Congress leader
 3. Advocated socialism, democracy and anti-imperialism
 4. First Prime Minister of India. (any two)
4. Baldev Singh (1901-1961)
 1. Nominee of the Congress in the Constituent Assembly.
 2. Successful entrepreneur.
 3. Leader of Panthic Akali Party in the Punjab Assembly.
 4. Defence Minister in the Union Government of Jawaharlal Nehru. (any two)
5. Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949)
 1. Member of the Constituent Assembly
 2. Poet, writer and political activist
 3. Among the for most women leaders in the Congress, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, (any two)

Question 95.

Explain any five major ideals enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Answer:

The following are the five major ideals enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India:

1. Sovereign: People of India have supreme power and authority to decide on internal and external matters concerning the country. The government cannot be dictated by any external power.
2. Secular: There is no state religion of India. At the same time citizens of India are free to practise and profess any religion or faith of their choice. No government machinery can discriminate against or favour any religion or faith and its followers.
3. Democratic: In India, it is the people who choose their leaders, who form the government. The government has to function according to certain basic rules ensuring maximum welfare of the people.
4. Justice: Discrimination of the citizens on any ground is legally prohibited.
5. Liberty: It refers to freedom on the activities of citizens of India. No unreasonable restrictions can be established on the way they think, express and follow up their thoughts in action.

Question 96.

Explain the importance of institutional design of the Constitution of India.

Answer:

The importance of the institutional design of the Constitution of India as follows:

1. Constitution is mainly about embodying its values into institutional arrangements.
2. It is a long and detailed document. Therefore, it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.
3. The constitution describes the constitutional arrangements in a very legal language.
4. Constitution lays down a procedure for choosing persons to govern the country. It defines who will and how much power one will have to take which decisions.
5. It also puts limits to what the government can do by providing some rights to the citizens that cannot be violated.

WORKSHEET

1. Write a note on Constitution. Explain the functions of the Constitution.
2. Elaborate on the Democratic Constitution in South Africa.
3. Explain about Struggle against apartheid.
4. Explain about Secularism in the Preamble.
5. Define the term “Socialist.” Explain if India is a Socialist State.
6. What did Nelson Mandela have to say about the apartheid government coming to an end, paving way for the formation of a multi-racial government?

7. Does the story of the South African struggle for freedom remind you of the Indian national movement? Make a list of similarities and dissimilarities between the two.
8. Why do we need a Constitution?
9. Write a short note on Dr Rajendra Prasad.
10. Compare the Preambles to the constitutions of the United States of America, India and South Africa. Note down at least one of the major differences among these.
11. Mention the ways in which the blacks were discriminated in South Africa.
12. How did your school celebrate the Constitution Day on November 26? Prepare a brief report.
13. Write a brief note on “Sovereignty.”
14. Define the term “Constituent Assembly.”
15. “Framing the Indian Constitution was a tough task for the members of the Constituent Assembly.” What were the difficulties faced by the creators of the Constitution? Mention four points.
16. Compare the Preambles to the constitutions of the United States of America, India and South Africa. Which of the three makes a reference to the past?
17. Explain the term “Fraternity.”
18. Who was Sarojini Naidu?
19. India is a Democratic Republic Country. Explain.
20. “In politics, we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality”. Who made this statement?

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Q.1. On what charges was Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment?

- (a) **For treason** (b) For breaking the laws
- (c) For corruption charges (d) for possessing illegal property

Q.2. what is apartheid?

- (a) Election in proportion to population
- (b) **Official policy of discrimination against the Blacks**
- (c) Equality among all
- (d) None of the above

Q.3. In which way did the system of apartheid discriminate among the South Africans?

- (a) Restricted social contacts between the races (b) Segregation of public facilities
- (c) Created race-specific job categories (d) **All the above**

Q.4. Name the organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.

- (a) African National Conference (b) African Neutral Congress
- (c) **African National Congress** (d) All National Party

Q.5. why did the white regime decide to change its policies?

- (a) Increase in protests and struggles
- (b) Government realised that repression was becoming difficult
- (c) Rise of sympathetic attitude in government for the blacks
- (d) **Both (a) and (b)**

Q.6. which of these did not form a part of the changed attitude of South African government?

- (a) Discriminatory laws were repealed (b) Ban on political parties and media was lifted
- (c) Nelson Mandela was freed from imprisonment (d) **More discriminatory laws were passed**

Q.7. when did South Africa become a democratic country?

- (a) 26 April, 1995 (b) **26 April, 1994** (c) 24 March, 1994 (d) 27 April, 1996

Q.8. With the end of apartheid, who became the first President of South African

Republic?

(a) F.W. de Klerk (b) P.W. Botha (c) **Nelson Mandela** (d) None of the above

Q.9. Name the autobiography of Nelson Mandela.

(a) **The Long Walk to Freedom** (b) South Africa Wins Freedom (c) Walk to Freedom (d) Our Freedom

Q.10. what did the black population want in the new Constitution?

(a) A black President (b) **Substantial social and economic rights**

(c) Whites should be turned out of the country (d) Apartheid for the whites

Q.11. what did the white minority want from the new Constitution?

(a) **Protect its privileges and property** (b) A separate country for themselves

(c) Reservation in legislature (d) some special rights

Q.12. During negotiations for making the Constitution, the whites agreed to

(a) The principle of majority rule (b) One person one vote

(c) Accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers (d) **All the above**

Q.13. which of the following sentences is correct?

(a) All countries that have constitutions are necessarily democratic

(b) **All countries that are democratic necessarily have constitutions**

(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of the above

Q.14. when did Motilal Nehru draft a Constitution for India?

(a) 1927 (b) 1926 (c) 1929 (d) **1928**

Q.15. Where was the 1931 session of Indian National Congress held?

(a) Nagpur (b) **Karachi** (c) Calcutta (d) Delhi

Q.16. which of these features were accepted by all the Indian leaders much before they sat Down to make the Constitution?

(a) Universal adult franchise (b) Right to freedom

(c) Protection of the rights of minorities (d) **All the above**

Q.17. According to which Act were the elections held to provincial legislatures in India in 1937?

(a) **Government of India Act, 1935** (b) Government of India Act, 1919

(c) Government of India Act, 1909 (d) None of the above

Q.18. which of these inspired our leaders while framing the Constitution?

- (a) Ideals of the French Revolution (b) Parliamentary democracy in Britain
(c) Bill of Rights in US (d) **All the above**

Q.19. which revolution in the world inspired the Indians to set up a socialist economy?

- (a) French Revolution (b) Turkish Revolution
(c) **Russian Revolution** (d) American War of Independence

Q.20. Name the body which framed the Constitution of India?

- (a) General Assembly (b) **Constituent Assembly** (c) Constitutional Assembly (d) People's Assembly

Q.21. when did the Assembly adopt the Constitution?

- (a) 26 November, 1949 (b) **26 December, 1949** (c) 26 January, 1950 (d) 26 January, 1949

Q.22. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly?

- (a) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (b) Jawaharlal Nehru (c) **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** (d) Abul Kalam Azad

Q.23. How many amendments were considered before adopting the Constitution?

- (a) Around 500 (b) **Around 2000** (c) Around 1550 (d) Around 1000

Q.24. Who said the following?

“I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country In Which all communities shall live in perfect harmony?”

- (a) **Mahatma Gandhi** (b) Jawaharlal Nehru (c) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (d) Sarojini Naidu

Q.25. Who among these leaders was a bitter critic of Mahatma Gandhi?

- (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (b) Sarojini Naidu (c) **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** (d) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Q.26. “The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from Every eye.” Who was Nehru referring to in his speech?

- (a) Abdul Ghaffar Khan (b) **Mahatma Gandhi** (c) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (d) Vallabhbhai Patel

Q.27. The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. What is it called?

- (a) Preface (b) **Preamble** (c) Introduction (d) Article

Q.28. Match these guiding values with their meanings.

- (A) Sovereign (i) government will not favour any particular religion
- (B) Republic (ii) People will have supreme right to make decisions without outside Interference
- (C) Fraternity (iii) Head of the state is an elected person
- (D) Secular (IV) There should be a feeling of brotherhood among all the people
- (a) A-(iii), B-(i), C-(ii), D-(IV)
- (b) A-(ii), B-(iii), C-(iv), D-(i)**
- (c) A-(i), B-(IV), C-(iii), D-(ii)
- (d) A-(IV), B-(iii), C-(i), D-(ii)

Q.29. which of these countries is/are examples of a Republic?

- (a) USA (b) India (c) South Africa **(d) All the above**

Q.30. what kind of 'Justice' does our Preamble provide?

- (a) Economic Justice (b) Political Justice (C) Social Justice **(d) All the above**

Q.31. which of these positions is correct in relation to the 'Sovereign' status of India?

- (a) USA can decide India's foreign policy

- (b) USSR can support the CPI (M) in setting up its government here

- (c) The Indian government only can decide its internal and external policies**

- (d) Pakistan can control India's Armed Forces

Q.32. Who was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** (c) B.R. Ambedkar (d) Mahatma Gandhi

Q.33. which of the following days is celebrated to mark the enforcement of the constitution?

- (a) Republic Day** (b) Independence Day (c) Gandhi Jayanti (d) Constitution Enforcement Day

Q.34. The Indian constitution has borrowed from

- (i) Ideas from French Revolution (ii) The British Constitution

- (iii) The Bill of Rights of the US (IV) Israeli Constitution

- (a) i, ii, iv **(b) i, ii, iii,** (c) ii, iii, iv (d) i, ii, iv

Q.35. The Constituent Assembly met for how many days?

- (a) 114** (b) 280 (c) 365 (d) 150

Q36. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian constitution?
(a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (b) Jawaharlal Nehru (c) C. Rajgopalachari (d) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Q.37. When did the Indian constitution come into force?
(a) 26th Nov, 1949 (b) 15th August, 1947 (c) **26th Jan, 1950** (d) 26th Jan, 1930

Q.38. Who prepared the draft of a constitution for India in 1928?
(a) Motilal Nehru (b) B. R. Ambedkar (c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

Q.39 When was the Constitution of India adopted?
(a) 26th Nov, 1949 (b) 26th Jan, 1949 (c) 26th Jan, 1950 (d) 26th Nov, 1950

Q.40. Drafting Committee was chaired by:
(a) Gandhiji (b) Pt. J.L. Nehru (c) Baldev Singh **(d) Dr B.R. Ambedkar**

1(a) 2 (b) 3 (d) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (d) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (a) 10(b)
11 (a) 12(d) 13(b) 14 (d) 15 (b) 16 (d) 17 (a) 18(d) 19 (c) 20 (b)
21(a) 22 (c) 23 (b) 24 (a) 25 (c) 26 (b) 27 (b) 28 (b) 29 (d) 30 (d)
31(c) 32 (b) 33(a) 34(b) i, ii, iii, 35 (a) 36.(a) 37(c) 38 (a) 39 (a) 40(d)

1. Who amongst the following was not a member of the Constituent Assembly of India?

- a) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- b) Dr B. R. Ambedkar
- c) H. C. Mukherjee
- d) Mahatma Gandhi**

2. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee for making the Constitution of India?

- a) Rajendra Prasad
- b) Baldev Singh
- c) H. C. Mukherjee
- d) Dr B. R. Ambedkar**

3. Who was the President of the Indian Constituent Assembly?

- a) Motilal Nehru
- b) Dr Rajendra Prasad**
- c) Sarojini Naidu
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

4. Which of the following days is celebrated to mark the enforcement of the Indian Constitution?

- a) **Republic Day**
- b) Independence Day
- c) Gandhi Jayanti
- d) Constitution Enforcement Day

5. When did the Indian Constitution come into force?

- a) 26th November, 1949
- b) 15th August, 1947
- c) 26th January, 1950
- d) 26th January, 1930

6. Who prepared the Constitution for India in 1928?

- a) Motilal Nehru
- b) B. R. Ambedkar
- c) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

7. How many members did the Constituent Assembly of India have?

- a) 199
- b) 299
- c) 399
- d) 279

8. When did the Constituent Assembly adopt the Constitution of India?

- a) 26th November, 1949
- b) 15th August, 1947
- c) 26th January, 1950
- d) 26th January, 1930

9. The first captain of the National Hockey Team who was also the member of the Constituent Assembly was?

- a) Baldev Singh
- b) Somnath Lahiri
- c) Jaipal Singh
- d) K. M. Munshi

10. Mahatma Gandhi's vision about the Indian Constitution was published in which magazine?

- a) Discovery of India
- b) Young India
- c) New India
- d) Indian Gazette

11. The Preamble to the Constitution of India declares India to be a

- (a) Sovereign, Democratic Republic
- (b) Sovereign, Socialist, Democratic, Republic
- (c) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic

(d) None of the above

12. Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution of India:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. (a) Motilal Nehru - | (a) President of the Constituent Assembly |
| 2. (b) B.R. Ambedkar - | (b) Member of the Constituent Assembly |
| 3. (c) Rajendra Prasad - | (c) Chairman of the Drafting Committee |
| 4. (d) Sarojini Naidu - | (d) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928 |

13. The Constitution of India is

- (a) flexible
- (b) rigid
- (c) partly flexible and partly rigid
- (d) none of these

14. India is a secular state because

- (a) there is no state religion
- (b) every citizen has the right to adopt and practice any religion
- (c) no discrimination can be made among citizens on the basis of religion
- (d) all of the above

15. Which among the following is not a feature of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Parliamentary form of government
- (b) Federal form of government
- (c) Double citizenship
- (d) A written constitution

16. Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa?

- (a) Between South Africa and its neighbors.
- (b) Between men and women.
- (c) Between the white minority and the black majority.
- (d) Between the colored minority and the black majority.

17. Which of these is a provision that a democratic constitution does not have ?

- (a) Powers of the head of the state.
- (b) Name of the head of the state.
- (c) Powers of the legislature.
- (d) Name of the country.

18. 4. Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

- (a) Sovereign (i) Government will not favor any religion
- (b) Republic (ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions
- (c) Fraternity (iii) Head of the state is an elected person

(d) Secular (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters.

2.

- 1) : d) Mahatma Gandhi
- 2) : d) Dr B. R. Ambedkar
- 3) : b) Dr Rajendra Prasad
- 4) : a) Republic Day
- 5) : c) 26th January, 1950
- 6) : a) Motilal Nehru
- 7) : b) 299
- 8) : a) 26th November, 1949
- 9) : c) Jaipal Singh
- 10) : b) Young India
- 11) : (c) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic
- 12) : (1) a + d, (2) b + c, (3) c + a, (4) d + b.
- 13) : (c) partly flexible and partly rigid
- 14) : d) all of the above
- 15) : (c) Double citizenship
- 16) : (c) Between the white minority and the black majority.
- 17) : (b) Name of the head of the state.
- 18) : (a) + (ii), (b) + (iii), (c) + (iv), (d) + (i).

1. Name the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Answer: (i) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (ii) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(iii) Jawaharlal Nehru. (iv) K.M. Munshi
(v) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

2. Who framed the Constitution of India?

Answer: The Constitution of India was framed by Constituent Assembly established in 1946.

2. Who was the President (Chairman) of the Constituent Assembly?

Answer: On 9th December 1946, Dr. Sachidanand Sinha, the oldest member of the constituent Assembly, was chosen temporary chairman and on 11th December, 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was unanimously elected permanent chairman.

3. When the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India and when it came into force?

Answer: The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26th November 1949 and it came into force on the 26th January 1950.

4. State the ideals laid down by the Constitution before the Indian Nation.

Answer: Ideals before the Indian Nation are :

- (i) Democracy,
- (ii) Socialism,
- (iii) Secularism and
- (iv) National Integration.

5. What are the Objectives of the Indian Constitution?

Answer: The Objectives are:

- (1) Justice - (a) Social Justice (b) Economical Justice (c) Political Justice.
- (2) Liberty.
- (3) Equality.
- (4) Fraternity.
- (5) Unity and Integrity of the Nation.
- (6) Date of Adoption of the Constitution.

6. What are the salient features of the Constitution of India?

Answer: The salient features are:

- (1) A Written and Lengthy Constitution.
- (2) Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.
- (3) Federal Government.
- (4) Parliamentary Government.
- (5) Fundamental Rights and Duties.
- (6) Directive Principle of State Policy.
- (7) Party Rigid and Party Flexible.
- (8) Single Citizenship.
- (9) Universal Adult Franchise.
- (10) Language Policy.
- (11) Special Provision for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.
- (12) Independent Judiciary.
- (13) A Constitution Derived from Many Sources.
- (14) One National Language.
- (15) Emergency Provision

Q1: Here are some false statements. Identify the mistake in each case and rewrite these correctly based on what you have read in this chapter.

- (a) Leaders of the freedom movement had an open mind about whether the country should be democratic or not after independence.**
- (b) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India held the same views on all provisions of the Constitution.**
- (c) A country that has a constitution must be a democracy.**
- (d) Constitution cannot be amended because it is the supreme law of a country.**

Answer:

- (a) Leaders of the freedom movement had a consensus that the country should be a democratic nation after independence.
- (b) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India held the same views on the basic principles of the constitution.
- (c) A country that is a democracy must have a constitution.
- (d) A constitution can be amended.

Q2: Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa?

- (a) Between South Africa and its neighbors**
- (b) Between men and women**
- (c) Between the white majority and the black minority**
- (d) Between the colored minority and the black majority**

Answer:

The most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa was between the white minority and the black majority.

Q3: Which of these is a provision that a democratic constitution does not have?

- (a) Powers of the head of the state**
- (b) Name of the head of the state**
- (c) Powers of the legislature**
- (d) Name of the country**

Answer:

- (b) Name of the head of the state

Q4: Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution:

- (a) Motilal Nehru**
- (b) B.R. Ambedkar**
- (c) Rajendra Prasad**
- (d) Sarojini Naidu**

- (i) President of the Constituent Assembly**
- (ii) Member of the Constituent Assembly**
- (iii) Chairman of the Drafting Committee**
- (iv) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928**

Answer:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| (a) Motilal Nehru | (iv) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928 |
| (b) B.R. Ambedkar | (iii) Chairman of the Drafting Committee |
| (c) Rajendra Prasad | (i) President of the Constituent Assembly |
| (d) Sarojini Naidu | (ii) Member of the Constituent Assembly |

Q5:Read again the extracts from Nehru's speech “Tryst with Destiny” and answer the following:

- (a) Why did Nehru use the expression “not wholly or in full measure” in the first sentence?**
- (b) What pledge did he want the makers of the Indian Constitution to take?**
- (c) “The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye”. Who was he referring to?**

Answer:

- (a) Nehru used the term ‘not wholly or in full measure’ because according to him the task they had undertaken was not complete.
- (b) The pledge that he wanted the makers of the Indian Constitution to take was to dedicate their lives to the service of India, the Indian people and the humanity at large.
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi

Q6:Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

- (a) Sovereign**
- (b) Republic**
- (c) Fraternity**
- (d) Secular**

- (i) Government will not favor any religion.**
- (ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions.**
- (iii) Head of the state is an elected person.**
- (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters.**

Answer:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| (a) Sovereign | (ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions |
| (b) Republic | (iii) Head of the state is an elected person. |
| (c) Fraternity | (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters. |
| (d) Secular | (i) Government will not favor any religion. |

Q7:A friend from Nepal has written you a letter describing the political situation there. Many political parties are opposing the rule of the king. Some of them say

that the existing constitution given by the monarch can be amended to allow more powers to elected representatives. Others are demanding a new Constituent Assembly to write a republican constitution. Reply to your friend giving your opinions on the subject.

Answer:

Attempt on your own and if you need it to get checked, write your answer in comments and we'll check it for you.

Q8:Here are different opinions about what made India a democracy. How much importance would you give to each of these factors?

(a) Democracy in India is a gift of the British rulers. We received training to work with representative legislative institutions under the British rule.

(b) Freedom struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. Free India could not be anything but democratic.

(c) We are lucky to have leaders who had democratic convictions. The denial of democracy in several other newly independent countries shows the important role of these leaders.

Answer:

Attempt on your own and if you need it to get checked, write your answer in comments and we'll check it for you.

Q9:Read the following extract from a conduct book for ‘married women’, published in 1912. ‘God has made the female species delicate and fragile both physically and emotionally, pitiably incapable of self-defense. They are destined thus by God to remain in male protection – of father, husband and son – all their lives. Women should, therefore, not despair, but feel obliged that they can dedicate themselves to the service of men’. Do you think the values expressed in this para reflected the values underlying our constitution? Or does this go against the constitutional values?

Answer:

The given paragraph reflects the patriarchal values. It promotes the idea of inequality of genders. This is contrary to the spirit of equality promoted by the constitution.

Q10:Read the following statements about a constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.

(a) The authority of the rules of the constitution is the same as that of any other law.

(b) Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be

formed.

(c) Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the constitution.

(d) A constitution is about institutions, not about values.

Answer:

(a) True

The constitution is the supreme law of a country. It is the foundation of a democratic entity. The rules laid down in the constitution are the bases on which all the other laws are framed. Hence, it follows that the constitutional rules have the same authority, perhaps even greater, as any other law of the country.

(b) True

The constitution lays down the framework for government formation. It defines in detail the composition and functions of the different organs of government, namely the executive, the judiciary and the legislature.

(c) True

The constitution lays down the fundamental rights of every citizen of the country. These rights are enforceable in a court of law. By defining the structure and functions of the different organs of government and by making them independent in their own spheres, yet keeping each organ under check by the other organs, the constitution ensures that there are proper limits to the powers exercised by the government.

(d) Not true

A constitution lays down the composition and functions of the different institutions of government, thereby providing the framework and laws for the working of these institutions. However, in providing such laws and frameworks, it is strongly guided by democratic principles and values. Hence, a constitution is as much about values as it is about the institutions based on these values.