

02. Constitutional Design

1. Who was Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and leader of the African National Congress (ANC). He fought against racial discrimination and spent 27 years in prison. In 1994, he became South Africa's first Black president, leading the nation towards equality, reconciliation, and democracy after the end of apartheid.

2. Who were called as “Blacks” in South Africa?

In South Africa, “Blacks” referred to people of African origin, including natives and other dark-skinned groups. They were discriminated against under apartheid laws, denied political rights, forced into separate residential areas, and excluded from public facilities used by the white minority population.

3. What was ANC?

ANC stands for the African National Congress. It was a political organisation in South Africa that led the struggle against apartheid. The ANC mobilised protests, civil disobedience, and international campaigns to end racial segregation and establish equal rights for all citizens regardless of race or skin colour.

4. Who was the first one to draft a Constitution for India?

The first person to draft a constitution for India was M.N. Roy, who proposed the idea in 1934. However, the actual drafting of the Indian Constitution was carried out by the Constituent Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, starting in 1946.

5. What resolutions were made in 1931, Karachi session?

In the Karachi session of 1931, the Indian National Congress adopted resolutions on Fundamental Rights and the National Economic Programme. These included the protection of civil liberties, equal rights, universal adult franchise, free and compulsory education, and the promotion of social and economic justice for all citizens.

6. What does “Segregation” mean in South Africa?

Segregation in South Africa meant the legal and physical separation of races. Under apartheid, laws enforced separate living areas, schools, transport, and public facilities for Whites and Blacks. This system denied Black people equal opportunities and basic human rights, creating deep social and economic inequalities.

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7. When did Apartheid end in South Africa?

Apartheid officially ended in 1994 when South Africa held its first democratic elections open to all races. Nelson Mandela became president, marking the beginning of a new era of equality and the dismantling of institutionalised racial segregation in the country.

8. Which basic values were incorporated in our Constitution from Pre-Independence design?

The Indian Constitution adopted several values from the pre-independence design, such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It also included provisions for fundamental rights, secularism, representative democracy, and social welfare, reflecting the goals of the freedom struggle and the vision of leaders like Gandhi and Nehru.

9. Which country's Constitutional features inspired Indian Constitutional features?

The Indian Constitution was inspired by many countries: parliamentary system from Britain, Fundamental Rights from the USA, directive principles from Ireland, federal structure from Canada, and the idea of a written constitution from France. These influences were adapted to suit India's needs.

10. What do you understand by the term Apartheid?

Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racial segregation in South Africa from 1948 to the early 1990s. It denied non-white citizens basic rights, enforced separate living areas, and promoted white supremacy, causing deep social and economic inequalities between races.

11. Which basic rules are followed to form a constitution?

To form a constitution, rules such as ensuring representation of all sections of society, protecting fundamental rights, defining powers of government, maintaining checks and balances, and reflecting the nation's history and aspirations are followed. Public consensus is also vital for legitimacy.

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12. How was the Constituent Assembly formed?

The Constituent Assembly of India was formed in 1946 through elections held by the provincial assemblies. Members were chosen to represent different communities and regions. The Assembly included leaders from various political backgrounds to ensure inclusivity in framing the Constitution.

13. When was the Constitution completed and why was it imposed on 26 January 1950?

The Constitution was completed on 26 November 1949. It came into effect on 26 January 1950 to honour the adoption of the Purna Swaraj resolution in 1930. This date symbolised India's full independence and commitment to democracy.

14. What were "Constituent Assembly delegates"?

Constituent Assembly delegates were the elected and nominated members of the Constituent Assembly responsible for drafting the Indian Constitution. They represented various communities, regions, and political ideologies, ensuring the document reflected the diversity and aspirations of the Indian people.

15. How did Blacks of South Africa fight against the practice of Apartheid?

Blacks in South Africa fought apartheid through protests, strikes, boycotts, and civil disobedience campaigns. The ANC played a leading role, supported by international pressure. Despite arrests and violence, their persistent struggle eventually led to the dismantling of apartheid in 1994.

16. Who was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar?

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. A social reformer and economist, he fought against caste discrimination and worked for social justice, equality, and the upliftment of marginalised communities in India.

17. Why Preamble is called the preface of the Indian Constitution?

The Preamble is called the preface because it summarises the ideals, objectives, and guiding principles of the Constitution. Like a book's preface, it introduces the essence of the document and reflects the vision of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for the nation.

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18. How was Apartheid practised in South Africa?

Apartheid in South Africa was enforced through laws that segregated education, housing, jobs, and public services. Blacks were denied voting rights, forced into separate areas, and faced severe restrictions in movement, political participation, and economic opportunities.

19. What problems were faced by South Africans before the formation of the Constitution?

Before the formation of the Constitution, South Africans faced racial discrimination, political exclusion, economic inequalities, and denial of basic rights. Blacks lived in poor areas, lacked quality education and jobs, and suffered under oppressive laws that benefited the white minority.

20. What steps were taken by the Constituent Assembly to form the Indian Constitution?

The Constituent Assembly studied various constitutions, debated each provision, and sought consensus among members. Committees were formed for specific subjects, expert advice was taken, and provisions were tested for compatibility with India's social, economic, and political realities.

21. What is a constitution? Why do we need constitution for a country?

OR

What are the main functions of a constitution?

A constitution is a set of fundamental rules and principles that outline the structure, powers, and functions of government, and the rights of citizens.

The main functions of a constitution are:

- It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
- It specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take which decisions.
- It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.

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- It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.
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Q22. "Most of countries of the world keep changing their Constitution as need but the same Indian Constitution is accepted even today it was at the time of preparation." It is an unusual achievement of any constitution. Give reasons to support your answer.

The Indian Constitution is an unusual achievement because it balances stability with flexibility. It laid down democratic principles acceptable to all sections of society and still allows amendments when needed. Its inclusiveness, vision for equality, and adaptability have made it relevant even after decades, unlike many constitutions that fail quickly.

Q23. Which were the factors that helped the Indian leaders to construct a constitution?

Several factors helped Indian leaders:

1. Freedom struggle experiences taught values of equality and liberty.
 2. Inspiration from world constitutions like Britain, USA, France, and South Africa.
 3. Unity in diversity, ensuring representation for all groups.
 4. Strong leadership of Nehru, Ambedkar, Patel, and others guided the process.
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Q24. Explain the ideals of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

The Preamble outlines the ideals:

- Sovereign – India is independent.
 - Socialist – Commitment to social and economic justice.
 - Secular – Equal respect for all religions.
 - Democratic & Republic – Government chosen by the people, no monarchy.
- It also promises justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all citizens.
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Q25. Read the extracts from Nehru's speech "Tryst with Destiny" and answer the following:

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(i) Why did Nehru use the expression "Not wholly or in full measure" in the first sentence?

Nehru meant that independence had come, but true freedom from poverty, inequality, and injustice was still incomplete.

(ii) What pledge did he want the makers of the Constitution to take?

To dedicate themselves to the service of India, ensuring equality, justice, and removing suffering from society.

(iii) "The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye." Who is the greatest man here and who called him so?

The greatest man was Mahatma Gandhi, and Nehru himself referred to him with those words.

Sources – NCERT Textbook: Chapter 02

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