

Date: _____

Aqsa
SECTION - C

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SUBMITTED To:

SIR NADAR SHAH

Date: _____

1) INTRODUCTION:

The Govt of India Act 1935 was one of most imp constitutional developments during British rule India. It became a turning point in the political history of the sub-continent. The creation and structure of Pakistan.

2) BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Before 1935, India was governed through several earlier acts passed by British Parliament - Regulating Act of 1773.

Pit's India Act of 1784.

Charter Acts (1793-1853).

3) Govt of India Acts (1858, 1909, 1919):

The Govt of India Act 1919 introduced limited self-govt but failed to satisfy Indian political leaders. Growing demands for more political freedom & the Simon Commission report (1927) eventually led to the framing of a new constitutional plan.

3) MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE ACT:

The British Govt had several aims in introducing act:

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To give limited political power to Indians while maintaining British control.

To provide a framework for gradual constitutional development.

To address the demands of political parties for more autonomy.

To introduce a federal system that linked provinces and princely states.

4) SALIENT FEATURES OF THE GOVT OF INDIA ACT 1935:

The act had 321 sections and 10 schedules, it was the most detailed constitutional document in the British Empire at that time.

.) THE KEY FEATURES WERE FOLLOWING:

A: Establ

Establishment of an All-India Federation.

A federation was to be created including British Indian provinces and princely states.

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The federal legislature was to consist of two houses: the Council of State (Upper House) & the Federal Assembly (Lower house).

The governor-General remained the central authority with wide powers.

B. PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY:

The provinces were given more powers and made autonomy in their internal affairs.

The system of diarchy (dual govt) introduced under the 1919 Act was abolished at the provincial level.

Indian ministers were made responsible to the elected provincial level.

C: FEDERAL EXECUTIVE:

The governor-general remained the head of the central govt.

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He had wide powers to control defense, foreign affairs, and emergency matters.

Although Indian ministers could be appointed, they were only advisers, and real authority remained with the Governor-General.

D: FEDERAL LEGISLATURE:

The legislature had two houses - Council of state and Federal Assembly.

The legislature could make laws for the whole of India, but the Governor-General had veto power.

E: PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE:

Each province had its own legislature (unicameral or bicameral) depending on population.

The Indian National Congress formed govt in most provinces after elections in 1937.

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G. FEDERAL COURT:

The act created the Federal court of India in 1937 to settle disputes btw provinces and the center.

It becomes the basis for later judicial systems in Pakistan and ~~in~~ India.

H. ELECTION SYSTEM:

Elections were introduced on a limited franchise basis - only about 10% of the population had the right to vote, based on property and education qualifications.

I. REACTIONS OF INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES:

The congress accepted the provincial autonomy but opposed the strong powers of the Governor-General and Governors.

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The Franchise was limited to a small portion of the population.

The system encouraged communal divisions by continuing separate electors.

) IMPACT OF THE ACT ON THE CREATION OF PAK:

The Govt of India Act 1935 had a significant impact on the political development of Muslims in India and on the eventual creation of Pak.

) PAKISTAN CONSTITUTION:

Federal Structure.

Division of powers.

Parliamentary system.

Role of Governor-General (later President)

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They wanted complete independence (Purna swaraj), not partial self-rule.

•) ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE:

The Muslim League criticized the Act for not giving enough safeguards to Muslims.

However, it welcomed separate electorates, which protected Muslim political identity.

•) PRINCELY STATES:

Most princely states refused to join the federation because they feared losing their autonomy.

•) LIMITATIONS OF THE ACT:

The proposed federation was never implemented.

Real powers remained in British hand through Governor-General.

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